United Nations

S/PV.6486

Security Council

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Official communiqué of the 6486th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 22 February 2011, at 3 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

> "At its 6486th meeting, held in private on 22 February 2011, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Peace and security in Africa'.
>
> "The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Chad, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, at their request, to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.
>
> "The Security Council heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.
>
> "The Security Council heard a statement by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya."

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United Nations S/PV.6487

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6487th meeting

Thursday, 24 February 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (for the period from 21 September 2010 to 7 January 2011) (S/2011/32)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (for the period from 21 September 2010 to 7 January 2011) (S/2011/32)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representatives of Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Timor-Leste to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/86, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/32, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1969 (2011).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6488

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6488th meeting

Thursday, 24 February 2011, 10.20 a.m.
New York

***President*:**	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
***Members*:**	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Serry.

Mr. Serry: Since our last meeting (see S/PV.6448), the Middle East region has been witnessing dramatic political transformations, but stagnation in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. It is true that the shifting regional dynamics have added uncertainty to the environment of an already difficult Middle East peace process. However, progress towards a negotiated solution that addresses all core issues would make a critical contribution to stabilizing the region. When Quartet principals met in Munich on 5 February, they affirmed that Israeli-Palestinian and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace were imperative to avoid outcomes detrimental to the region.

Let me convey to Council members the Secretary-General's profound concern at the continued impasse in the political process. I must, in all frankness, report low confidence and trust among the parties and in international efforts to help them overcome their differences. The parties are unlikely to overcome the deficit of trust without a credible and effective international intervention in the peace process.

In our view, it is becoming increasingly clear that a more concrete and substantive basis would have to be laid out for the parties to engage. The Quartet must play its full role in this regard. When the Quartet met in Munich on 5 February, it reiterated its commitment to the two-State solution and a conclusion of the talks by September 2011. It also reaffirmed that the outcome of negotiations should end the conflict and occupation that began in 1967. The Quartet agreed a way forward towards a further Quartet principals' meeting. Envoys are working to meet separately with the parties, as well as with representatives of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee. In its discussions with the parties, the Quartet will give serious consideration to their views on how to bring about resumed negotiations on all core issues, including borders and security. The longer the impasse in talks persists, the greater is our concern that tensions on the ground will unravel modest achievements and stand in the way of a negotiated solution.

Actions that risk prejudging the outcome of negotiations are particularly unhelpful. In this context, Israel is continuing to build some 2,000 units begun in the West Bank after the moratorium expired on 26 September — a regrettable development, as noted by the Quartet. We call on Israel to heed the calls of the international community, the provisions of international law and the Road Map by freezing all settlement activity, including natural growth, and dismantling outposts. I note that, notwithstanding the recent results in the Security Council, all members of the Council strongly oppose continued settlement activity.

This extends to East Jerusalem, where a number of settlements were announced for expansion in past weeks, including 56 new units in Ramot and 13 units in the heart of the Palestinian neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. We urge the parties to refrain from provocative actions at this sensitive time.

Israeli authorities demolished 66 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C and East Jerusalem, displacing over 100 people and otherwise affecting another 220, particularly impacting the livelihoods of vulnerable herding communities, while construction of adjacent settlements continued.

Adversity on the ground has not stopped the Palestinian Authority from forging ahead with its State-building agenda. With significant achievements realized over the past years and further reforms under way, it is my clear view that the strong institutions now established represent the basis of a State-in-waiting. The further realization of progress is fundamentally constrained by the Israeli measures of occupation that deny territorial contiguity and inhibit freedom of movement. The continued divisions among the Palestinians are also a serious concern in that regard.

Palestinian security forces continued to make strides in the maintenance of law and order in the West

Bank. Economic activity is on the rise and we note positively Israel's removal of some further obstacles to support this trend: easier access to Nablus via the Huwwara checkpoint; increased tourist access to Bethlehem; and more predictable access for meat and dairy products into East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

On 4 February, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed with Quartet Representative Blair on a package of measures designed to help improve Palestinian livelihoods and support economic growth in both the West Bank and in Gaza. It is imperative that these steps be facilitated and implemented in full. More and speedier easing measures by the Government of Israel are urgently needed to shore up the State-building effort. The confidence built over the past years should enable Israel to further roll back elements of occupation.

My visit to Hebron on 25 January impressed on me the importance of enabling the Palestinian Authority to develop in Area C. I visited the densely populated neighbourhood of Qaizun in Area A, overlooking empty space in Area C next to Israeli settlements. The Governor and the Mayor of Hebron underlined the importance and urgency of using at least some of that area to accommodate Hebron's natural growth by expanding its residential and industrial area there. Such circumstances can be found in many more Palestinian urban centres. I urge Israel to address these pressing Palestinian needs.

The Government of Israel's commitment to allow Palestinian security forces to deploy into seven towns in Area B, as part of the package agreed with Quartet Representative Blair, is a step forward. However, as Prime Minister Fayyad impressed upon me repeatedly, the presence and operations of Israel's security forces within Palestinian population centres that are meant to be under Palestinian security control is a major concern. In the past month alone, there were 434 incursions, which resulted in one Palestinian killed, 96 injured and 379 arrested.

We also remain concerned at violent incidents at checkpoints, which injured one Arab Israeli and two Palestinians during the reporting period. On 20 January, an alleged Islamic Jihad militant opened fire against an Israeli position near Jenin, and was consequently shot and killed by Israeli soldiers.

Demonstrations continued against the barrier, which deviates from the Green Line in contravention of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, resulting in seven Palestinians being injured and numerous arrests. Allow me to stress that the right of peaceful and non-violent protest must be upheld.

Israeli forces arrested two settlers on 30 January in connection with one of two incidents where two Palestinians were shot and killed by settlers. Settlers also injured nine Palestinians. Settler impunity remains a concern. A report released by the Israeli human rights group Yesh Din indicates that, since 2005, less than 10 per cent of alleged attacks by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank have resulted in an indictment.

During the reporting period, a number of steps were taken by the Palestinian Authority aimed at responding to expectations for political reform. On 8 February, the Government of Prime Minister Fayyad called for local elections to be held on 9 July. President Abbas declared on 17 February that presidential and legislative elections should also be held as soon as possible in both the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas has so far rejected the calls for elections absent full reconciliation.

Prime Minister Fayyad submitted the resignation of his Government on 14 February, and was immediately tasked by President Abbas with forming a new Government. I note the important suggestion of Prime Minister Fayyad to form a Government of national unity based on the principle of non-violence, as a first step to advance reconciliation.

Several hundred demonstrators took to the streets of Ramallah last week demanding that their leaders end their differences and reunite. On 21 February, a network of 81 Palestinian non-profit organizations from the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip publicly called for rival Palestinian factions to end their disagreement. I urge all Palestinian factions to show responsibility and heed the legitimate calls of the Palestinian people for reunification.

It is critical that the donor community continue to support the Palestinian Authority and buttress the reform agenda, even if the Palestinian Authority has been able to halve its dependence on budgetary assistance between 2008 and 2011. Thus far in February, the Palestinian Authority has received over $80 million in support for recurrent expenditures. A new international donors' conference for the Palestinian State will be held in Paris in June. This will be preceded by a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on 13 April.

I was in Gaza last week, on 16 February, and it remains a high priority in all my engagement to seek to improve the situation in Gaza on the basis of respect for calm and a significant improvement in socio-economic conditions, which have deteriorated so badly in recent years in the aftermath of the Hamas takeover and the Israeli-imposed blockade.

I regret to report to the Council that the reporting period was marked by an increase in violence, with an escalation of rocket attacks emanating from Gaza and Israeli air raids and repeated confrontations in the border area with Israel. Nineteen mortar shells and 15 rockets were fired indiscriminately from Gaza towards Israeli civilian areas. As recently as yesterday, three Grad rockets were fired at the city of Be'er Sheva, damaging a house. On 31 January, three Grad rockets were fired, narrowly missing a wedding celebration in Netivot. Also on 23 February, a 10- year-old girl was killed in the southern Gaza Strip when an explosive device went off while being prepared by militants. We condemn rocket attacks and once again call for their immediate cessation. We are urging the de facto authorities to intensify their efforts to maintain calm.

Israeli forces responded overnight to the recent rocket attack with air raids against Hamas facilities in the Strip. On 23 February, Israeli forces also used tank fire against militants who were allegedly detonating an explosive device near the border fence and firing mortars. The operation injured 11 Palestinians, including militants from Islamic Jihad, killing one. During the night of 17 February, three Palestinians were shot and killed by Israeli security forces near the border fence in Gaza as they were allegedly planting explosive devices, while the de facto authorities contend that they were fishermen.

During the reporting period, Israel conducted 10 further incursions and four air strikes into Gaza, in which two Palestinian militants and 27 Palestinian civilians were injured. We call on Israel to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure the protection of civilians. All parties must respect international humanitarian law.

We remain concerned at the depressed economic situation in Gaza and the continuing impact of Israeli closure measures. At the same time, I note positively the Israeli approval of 14 additional United Nations infrastructure projects in Gaza, including seven United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools. That brings to 20 the total number of approved UNRWA schools. The total amount of approved projects now stands at $155.4 million. It is important that implementation now proceed smoothly, which will require the streamlined entry of materials and adequate capacity at the crossings.

Import levels are more significant than before Israel's policy adjustment in June 2010, but are far from meeting pre-2007 levels. The needs in Gaza remain vast. We hope that both import and export levels can be scaled up within the framework of the implementation of resolution 1860 (2009).

The United Nations is also in discussions with the Government of Israel on a process, led by the Palestinian Authority with United Nations monitoring, for the commercial import of construction materials for the private sector.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Pillay visited the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel during the reporting period and expressed her concern at the violations of human rights. Among other issues, she spoke out against settlement activity in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, and the associated regime of obstacles to movement, given their devastating impact on human rights, peace and development. On 10 February, the High Commissioner also met with victims of the rocket attacks in Sderot and urged the militants in Gaza to stop committing war crimes by firing those rockets.

Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit has been detained by Hamas for over 1,700 days. We reiterate our appeal for his release and for humanitarian access to be granted without delay. We continue to express concern about the several thousand Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

Beginning on 30 January, the Rafah crossing was closed to all traffic, including humanitarian cases. We welcome the gradual reopening of the crossing since 18 February.

Let me turn now to regional events. With regard to developments in Egypt, where a transition is under way that must serve the interests of the Egyptian people, we take positive note of reaffirmed commitments by Israeli and Egyptian authorities to regional stability and peace. We note with appreciation that Israel is allowing 300 Palestinians living in Libya to enter the West Bank as a humanitarian gesture.

We regret the lack of progress towards peace between Israel and Syria. We are concerned about a new campaign to encourage additional Israeli settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan, the goal of which is to recruit 140 new families during 2011. In the interest of regional stability and to realize the Arab Peace Initiative, the conflict between Israel and Syria should be resolved on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In Lebanon, the collapse of the Government on 12 January led to an increase in the level of political tension in the country, culminating in a series of demonstrations in support of caretaker Prime Minister Hariri on 24 and 25 January, mostly in the northern city of Tripoli and in some areas of Beirut. The demonstrations ended as Prime Minister Hariri called for calm. The Secretary-General welcomed the statement issued by Prime Minister Hariri and called on all parties to maintain calm and avoid any acts of violence.

On 25 January, following two days of constitutionally mandated consultations with all parliamentary groups, President Sleiman requested Mr. Najib Mikati to form a new Government. Mr. Mikati's consultations are continuing. On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to convey his hope that the new Government will meet the aspirations of all Lebanese people and his call on that Government to abide by all of the international obligations that Lebanon has undertaken.

On 14 February, a political rally was held in Beirut to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. The Secretary-General issued a statement on that occasion in which he reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations to the efforts of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

On 22 February, the Lebanese caretaker Minister of Labour signed an administrative decree regulating the implementation of the labour law amendments that were approved by Parliament in August 2010. That is an important and positive step that will contribute to improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

While progress is being made in the reconstruction of the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, funding remains a major concern. The United Nations urges the international community to renew its financial support to the reconstruction of Nahr al-Bared so that progress can be sustained.

The overall situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon remained quiet and stable. Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace have continued to occur on an almost-daily basis.

In my December briefing (see S/PV.6448), I indicated that I believed that the credibility of the international community, including the Quartet's, would be at stake in 2011. It is now all the more urgent and crucial that it respond to this test. To that end, the Quartet intends to engage the parties in serious talks, including on substance, and to support them in finding ways back to the negotiating table. I also believe that there should be a readiness to offer more concrete suggestions for those negotiations, if that is what it will take to enable decisive progress towards peace. I hope that the leaders will join in that effort by acting responsibly and in keeping with their peoples' aspirations for stability and peace. That, in my view, is the right lesson to draw from the changes that are taking place in the region.

The President: I thank Mr. Serry for his briefing. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6489

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6489th meeting

Friday, 25 February 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Vinay Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2011/73)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2011/73)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Guinea-Bissau to participate in this meeting.

I request the Protocol Officer to escort His Excellency Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, to the Council table.

Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

At this meeting, I will give a briefing, pursuant to rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/73, the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country.

I now give the floor to Mr. Joseph Mutaboba.

Mr. Mutaboba: It is a privilege for me to present the latest report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) (S/2011/73). I also appreciate the opportunity to exchange views with the Council on the most recent developments in Guinea-Bissau. There has been progress in the political and security environments in the country, although the situation remains complex and tenuous.

With the Council's permission, I will focus today on four main areas: the efforts deployed to enhance the stability of State institutions and to jump-start implementation of the security sector reform programme for the defence sector; the progress made in the national dialogue and conference process; the latest developments with regard to the fight against impunity, drug trafficking and organized crime; and finally, the complex relationship between the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau and international partners.

The Council will recall that, in its presidential statement of 22 July 2010 (S/PRST/2010/15), the Security Council requested the international community and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in its efforts to strengthen and stabilize State institutions in the country. As the Council is already aware, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) have developed a road map in support of the implementation of the security sector reform programme and to help enhance the stability of State institutions in Guinea-Bissau. The ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council adopted the road map on 24 November and submitted it to ECOWAS heads of State and Government for final endorsement. It is important to continue to impress upon the leadership of Guinea-Bissau and ECOWAS the importance of materializing their plans for jump-starting the security sector reform programme in the defence and security sectors to contribute to the stabilization process in Guinea-Bissau without delay.

At the national level, the adoption of the road map by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council gave new impetus to efforts by technical partners to jump-start the process. On 10 December, the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Defence, expressed its full alignment with the road map and called on the leadership of Guinea-Bissau and ECOWAS to expedite its final endorsement.

In addition, on 6 December, the National Popular Assembly endorsed a bilateral agreement worth $30 million between the Governments of Angola and Guinea-Bissau to support security sector reform. That agreement provides for the completion of a number of tasks that fall under the ECOWAS-CPLP partnership and the road map and should complement regional efforts to help the Government of Guinea-Bissau to advance its national priorities on security sector reform. In January, a first group of Angolan military and police officers was deployed to Guinea-Bissau to work on plans to rehabilitate military infrastructure and fine-tune training plans with their national counterparts. We are told that the bulk of the Angolan team will be deployed by the end of this month.

In recent weeks, I have continued to work with the national authorities, in particular the President and the Prime Minister, to underscore the importance of a continuing firm commitment on the part of all national stakeholders, in particular the political and military leadership, to the ECOWAS-CPLP partnership and the road map. In addition to my efforts with the national authorities, in December I also wrote to Mr. James Victor Gbeho, President of the ECOWAS Commission, to reiterate the urgency of the adoption of the road map at the level of ECOWAS heads of State and Government in order not to lose momentum.

Furthermore, consistent with the provisions of resolution 1949 (2010), which requested comprehensive information detailing the proposed modalities, timing and resources relating to the implementation of the ECOWAS road map, I proposed to the President of the ECOWAS Commission that ECOWAS and CPLP experts begin working together with national counterparts without further delay, with a view to developing realistic timelines and benchmarks in accordance with conditions set by international partners, to enable us to revert to the Security Council in a timely manner. I remain confident that the United Nations will be in a better position to report to the Security Council in the next progress report of the Secretary-General, following the deployment of the joint United Nations-ECOWAS-CPLP assessment mission requested in the resolution. That exercise will also be important for finalizing the ongoing benchmarking exercise that is jointly being conducted by UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team in order to finalize the mission's strategic work plan with the appropriate benchmarks and to devise the UNIOGBIS exit strategy.

I would like to emphasize the positive momentum generated by the partnership between ECOWAS and the CPLP and the Government of Guinea-Bissau, which in recent months has had a critical impact on the political and security environment in the country. President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior have maintained a close dialogue in recent months on major domestic issues, including on the decision to release the military officers who were detained without due process since the 1 April events. On 20 January, on the occasion of National Heroes' Day, both leaders publicly claimed their mutual respect and their resolve to strengthen the stability of national institutions. That move prompted the military leadership to confirm, through the Chief of General Staff, that the military would continue to stay out of politics, and to pledge support for the Government throughout the rest of its term and the tenure of the current legislature, until 2012.

Progress was also made in recent weeks on the national dialogue process, which is expected to result in the holding of the national conference in mid-2011. With the financial and technical support of UNIOGBIS, a series of eight national consultations were organized in December and January with personnel from the defence and security forces. Those efforts, which took place amidst important consultations on the issue of the ECOWAS-CPLP road map for support to security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, have revealed a profound desire for change among the rank and file.

The consultations, which also involved representatives from Government institutions, civil society and the media, alongside parliamentarians, deplored the negative connotation of the armed forces in Guinea-Bissau and its responsibility in the successive crises faced by the country. The first round of consultations with the defence and security forces came up with a series of recommendations, including on the need for a separation of roles for the defence and security sectors; a career structure; mobility based on merit; and an improvement in conditions of service. The next step in the national dialogue will involve consultations in March with the diaspora in the subregion and Europe, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as nine regional conferences, to be held in April and May throughout the country, to conclude the preparatory process for the national conference.

Another area under institutional reform where progress was made in recent months was the constructive debate on a possible review of the Guinea-Bissau Constitution. In their statements at the opening of the last session of Parliament, on 19 November 2010, President Malam Bacai Sanhá and the Speaker of Parliament insisted on the need to consider that reform as a priority for the stability of State institutions. At the initiative of the parliamentary commission in charge of the review of the Constitution, and in collaboration with the Bissau Faculty of Law, UNIOGBIS organized a series of debates and seminars for members of Parliament representing all four political parties in Parliament.

The purpose of those exercises, conducted in December 2010 and January 2011, was to increase awareness among the main political actors about constitutional issues and to stimulate reflection on the constraints of State-building processes in Guinea-Bissau, as well as to increase the capacity of members of Parliament to comprehend the various aspects of the Constitution-making process and law-making principles, structures and organs.

In 2011, UNIOGBIS will continue to support the constitutional review process by opening up local and regional venues for political dialogue between members of Parliament and major national constituencies, in order to collect views on the best law-making arrangements, principles and political options that could ensure lasting stability, security, democracy and development in Guinea-Bissau.

In spite of these positive developments, much progress is yet to be made on other important aspects, in particular on the fight against impunity and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. On the fight against impunity, despite the release, in December 2010, of the former Chief of General Staff of the armed forces and other army officers who were detained since 1 April 2010 without due process, not much progress has been made on other fronts, such as the investigations into the March and June 2009 assassinations.

I have continued to advocate for more clarity and transparency from the judicial authorities of Guinea-Bissau, so as to mobilize support among international partners to complete these investigations. However, I regret to note that both the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Office of the Prosecutor General have yet to present an accurate status of these investigations, and there are increased concerns in Guinea-Bissau that the release of all officers detained in connection with these investigations would once again amount to an attempt to freeze the process.

With regard to the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, several measures taken by the Government are worth mentioning. They include, as the Council knows, the establishment of a transnational crime unit, under the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL. I am also pleased to note the decision of the Government, in January, to close the Cufar airstrip in the south of the country, which has been used for illegal flights. In addition, on 11 January, Presidents Sanhá and Condé agreed in Guinea-Conakry to join forces in the fight against drug trafficking by enhancing collaboration between the national anti-narcotic agency of Guinea and the transnational crime unit of Guinea-Bissau.

Furthermore, on 10 February, the Guinea-Bissau Judiciary Police held a drugs-burning ceremony near Bissau, attended by the Minister of Justice — who is present here — the General Prosecutor, representatives of the diplomatic community and journalists. Fourteen kilograms of cocaine, approximately 800 kilograms of cannabis and 71 grams of crack, seized between 2007 and 2010, were burned. In their statements both the Minister of Justice and the Prosecutor General said that the ceremony showed the authorities' commitment to combat the scourge and rejected rumours that drugs seized were reintroduced into the market.

Finally, on 22 February, the Prosecutor General issued a decree specifying the competence of the Judiciary Police alone for investigations into drug-trafficking-related cases. The implementation of that decree will facilitate the work of the Judiciary Police and cooperation among relevant police institutions.

While these developments are encouraging, it is important, in my view, that the Government continue to demonstrate its resolve to fight this scourge, including by mobilizing adequate human and financial resources for the newly established transnational crime unit. Meanwhile, arrangements to allow for foreign vessels to patrol territorial waters off Guinea-Bissau and conduct joint policing activities with Guinea-Bissau police would also be a sign of the firm commitment of the Government to achieving progress on this important issue.

I cannot conclude without addressing the important role that regional and international partners continue to play in the stabilization of the political and security environment in Guinea-Bissau. Besides the partnership with ECOWAS and the CPLP — which has yet to materialize on the ground — it is important to stress that the improved political and security environment was largely influenced by the announcement, in December 2010, that the country had reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative completion point. That development gave rise to cautious optimism and boosted the morale of the Government of Carlos Gomes Júnior, who is here with us, who has worked for the improvement of the macroeconomic context of Guinea-Bissau. Yet these encouragements from the international community should not be interpreted by the leadership of Guinea-Bissau as a sign that the negative trends and effects of the events of 1 April 2010 have been fully addressed.

The decision on 3 February by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to launch consultations with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, is yet another demonstration of the continuous concerns among international partners with regard to the remaining triggers of instability in the country.

I am encouraged, however, with the constructive response by the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau to the European Union (EU) invitation for consultations, conveying that the authorities of Guinea-Bissau shared the concerns articulated by the EU in its communication with regard to the sources of instability in the country and the need to address them. The Government also took positive steps in sending a delegation headed by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is also present, and including the spokesperson of the President, the Chief of Staff of the Chief of General Staff of the armed forces and a representative of the League of Human Rights — also in the room — to several European capitals to meet bilaterally with the relevant stakeholders and prepare the consultations that are scheduled to be held in March in Brussels.

In parallel, the Prime Minister travelled to Dakar to seek regional support for Guinea-Bissau in the upcoming consultations with the EU and to meet with ambassadors of EU member States accredited to Bissau but resident in Dakar.

In my view, these steps are a demonstration of the change of approach by the leadership of Guinea-Bissau, which seems to be ready to use this window of opportunity offered by the consultations with the EU to address in earnest those issues that prompted the disengagement and suspension of EU support for security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. It is my hope that these consultations will produce tangible results and contribute to re-engaging the EU as a key partner in support of the reforms in Guinea-Bissau, alongside the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP and their member States.

The President: I thank Mr. Mutaboba for his briefing, and I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Gomes (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in Portuguese; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): Allow me, first of all, in the name of the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and in my own name, to greet all those present and to thank the Council for the opportunity and the honour given me to address the members of the Security Council. As this is the first time that I participate in a Security Council meeting, I would like to underline the special appreciation I have for the role played by this body in the maintenance of international peace and security.

My country recognizes and is grateful for the efforts of the United Nations to promote stability and peace through its permanent representation in Bissau, which provides the Secretary-General with pertinent information on the evolution of the situation.

This meeting is taking place at a very specific moment in our national life, with the beginning of consultations with the European Union, in the context of article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, to discuss commitments related with human rights and the rule of law. As a prelude to these conversations, the institutions of the Republic and civil society considered it important to carry out information and sensitization measures in relation to some actors and development partners, thus creating bridges for dialogue to help our Government overcome the difficulties that characterize our current relations with some of our domestic and foreign partners.

It is in this context that I recently visited the neighbouring Republic of Senegal, where I shared some of my preoccupations and reflections with the representatives of friendly countries. And it is in this context that I must place this statement, in which I will deal with some of the recent political and economic developments and share with the Council our vision and perspectives for the future and the possible options for us to overcome together the difficult challenges that face our country.

Allow me then to talk about the efforts that the people and Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau have undertaken to promote the changes that are taking place in the country and which have contributed in an irreversible manner to the achievement of peace and stability.

The political context in Guinea-Bissau during the present legislature was negatively affected by the various manifestations of instability that occurred in 2009 and 2010, in spite of the positive signs that we saw at the beginning. The November 2008 legislative elections led to the establishment of a parliamentary majority, demonstrating a certain return to governing stability. With the formation of a new Government in January 2009, since the middle of this year Guinea-Bissau has demonstrated that it has made a true break with the past, showing its readiness to govern effectively and efficiently and guarantee progressive improvement in its people's living conditions.

However, the tragic events of 1 and 2 March 2009, which led to the deaths of two of the country's high-ranking figures — the President and the Chief of Staff of the armed forces — and later of two important politicians, had a devastating effect on the country's image and illustrated the fragility of the political situation and of the state of national development. It is important to note, however, that the Government's determined efforts mitigated the impact of those events so that they affected neither the constitutional order nor the economic and administrative reforms. The successful holding of early presidential elections renewed hopes for a new political cycle with strong institutional stability, based on a genuine majority and a Government and President backed by this demonstration of political force.

However, the military uprising of 1 April 2010, the arrest of the former Chief of Staff of the armed forces and the naming of a new military leadership put the issue of political instability on Guinea-Bissau's agenda, provoking the concern of the entire international community. The violence and political instability of these events showed that the democratic process in our country has not been completely consolidated. It is clear that to guarantee the rule of law it is not enough to have a progressive constitution that lays out the principles and rules of the democratic process, or to hold successful elections.

It is in that context that we had to deal with a number of questions: for instance, how to overcome successive political and military crises; how to restore a minimal social equilibrium; whether the military officers involved in the uprising should be part of the solution or the problem, or be marginalized in the dialogue; and the consequences that might arise from this or that position.

As the Council no doubt understands, the answers to all of these questions in a fragile State, with a precarious defence and security system, cannot be answered by the Government alone. The Government has no doubt of the urgency and necessity of reform in the areas of defence, security and justice. In truth, there is now a national consensus that reforming defence and security would be a good way to resolve the problems we have encountered in this sector, because it involves ipso facto a vision and strategy for the modernization and transformation of the security and armed forces into actors for peacemaking and consolidation of the rule of law. In the specific circumstances under which we had to take decisions, it seemed to us important to strengthen dialogue between the actors in order to reduce fear and uncertainty. That was and continues to be done, both at the level of military units and in society in general.

However, it is not enough to have political will and the capacity to identify and diminish the risks that threaten the climate of peace and stability in the country; it is necessary to act with determination. In that context, the lack of financial resources, or their conditionality, has been one of the main obstacles negatively affecting the dynamic of the process. It does not seem to us legitimate to try to achieve reform without the active participation of those who will benefit from it, and even less legitimate to make it conditional on strategies or realities that are not relevant to Guinea-Bissau. It is important to state firmly that it is Guinea-Bissau that must conduct the processes of reform, because only with Guinean ownership of those processes can reform succeed and achieve its goals.

In spite of the difficulties I have mentioned, the Government has successfully carried out significant reform measures. In 2008, it conducted a biometric census of the armed forces, and a year later completed a census of the volunteers fighting for liberty and security. The Government finalized and adopted the priority plan for reform of the security and defence sectors and its corresponding operating plan, which will give reform greater impetus. Beyond the physical rehabilitation of barracks as a way to dignify our military and police's living conditions, these efforts include measures that will help boost retention and professionalization in our military forces and the creation of a pension fund and associated programmes. This has made possible a review of the legal framework for the new mission and mandate of the defence and security forces; the official launch, in June 2010, of a national awareness-raising campaign on the reform of the defence and security sectors; and the establishment of a special pension fund that will ensure immediate payments for military officers reaching retirement age. The fund, which is based on the voluntary contributions of development partners and of the Government itself, will be independently managed by a financial institution through a competitive public process, which has already begun, in order to ensure transparency and security.

The National Popular Assembly has been provided with a documentation centre in order to improve the technical capacity of its special committee on defence and security with a view to allow it to better track the reform process and improve political and democratic control over that process. Utilizing domestic resources and with the participation of military engineers, we have rehabilitated the Amura fortress in Bissau, as well as some barracks. We have also rehabilitated barracks in Gabú and Quebo using foreign resources. And we have established a training centre for security forces as a prelude to setting up a future police academy, whose installations have already been delivered to the Ministry of the Interior.

A national computer laboratory and training centre has been officially up and running since 2010. The centre's goal is to augment training for agents working on internal security and criminal investigation. The centre has already graduated 380 members of the Public Order Police, the Judiciary Police, the Security and Information Service and the Migration Service. Training for the security forces in Bafatá and Gabú has been conducted to help deal with child trafficking and the eradication of violence, especially gender-based violence.

We have also created and deployed a model police squad, in the context of a new policing paradigm based on citizenship and community policing. We have begun the process of registering, selecting and certifying security agents, in an effort to reshape and develop the capacity of those forces. And we have set up units for surveillance and investigation to combat drug trafficking and transnational crime. All of these activities demonstrate the Government's commitment to implementing reform and making clear our desire to respect the commitments we have made with our development partners.

Our lack of resources was partially addressed, and received an important boost from, the help provided to our Government — including significant technical, material and financial contributions — from the Government of Angola, the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. As the Council is aware, the Republic of Angola, our brother and friend, is demonstrating in practice the solidarity it has shown on the political level, ensuring that we can take reforms forward. It is important to note, however, that the financial resources provided, although significant and relevant, are not yet enough to cover all the subprogrammes I have mentioned.

Another factor threatening social stability is the weak capacity of our justice sector to deal with crime. This leads to the perception that our country has become a place of impunity. We are aware that the State has a diminished capacity to punish owing to the lack of prisons, the continuing disobedience of certain groups and corruption. An ongoing issue in that regard pertains to delays in investigating and carrying out arrests in crimes involving high State officials. This generates suspicion and uncertainty about the State's true attitude towards such crimes.

I wish to reiterate that the Government I lead will continue to make every effort, as is its obligation, to carry out its functions, within the material, technical and financial means available to the national prosecutor's office. It is important to mention here that the Government continues to wait for the support that it requested from the international community after the tragic events in March. Those requests — made through the Secretary-General, the African Union, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries — are intended to help investigations avail themselves of the technical support of international experts, as occurred in the Republic of Guinea, our neighbour.

It is also important to underscore the sweeping institutional changes currently under way to reform the judicial system and improve its functioning in line with full respect for democratic principles, especially the separation of powers. Like security and defence sector reform, the judicial reform outlined in the recently approved national plan for the justice system is based on human resources and training and focused on respect for the rule of law, so as to build a new justice system where impunity has no place.

Another destabilizing factor is the use of our country as a transit point for drugs. That is an abuse of our country, which we condemn and which poses a grave threat to the peace and security of our subregion. However, it is important to note that our country does not reap profits from drugs, nor does it produce drugs. On the contrary, it has combated the scourge of drugs with all the capacity that it possesses. The rehabilitation of prison facilities and technical training of the police are part of this endeavour, which will gain greater momentum with the entry into force of the ECOWAS plan and the West Africa Coast Initiative. In this context, our country has just created another unit to combat transnational crime that includes the involvement of the ministries of justice, the interior and finance.

Recent drug seizures, with the help of the military, the confiscation and public auction of airplanes used in drug trafficking, the destruction of landing strips and the physical destruction of drugs, ammunition and explosives are concrete signs of our efforts and evidence that they are producing positive results. Of course, the success of this effort to combat drug trafficking requires financial, material and technical support on a more consistent basis and on a larger scale.

In our view, the strategy outlined by our Government and presented at the International Conference on Drug Trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, held in Lisbon in 2007, must be reviewed and strengthened so that it can incorporate the phenomenon of terrorism, which is today closely linked with drug trafficking. Terrorism has been increasingly felt in our subregion, owing to the fragility of our States, their lack of control over vast areas of their territory and the protection and support that terrorists receive from drug barons and drug cartels. For that reason, countries such as Guinea-Bissau, which are involved against their will in the drug trafficking cycle, deserve special attention from the international community, because the risks from the possible infiltration of terrorist networks in their territory are extremely grave, with unpredictable consequences for regional and world security.

In that context, the agreements to combat drug trafficking that we have signed with the United States of America and Venezuela must be implemented swiftly, in particular with a more active presence by the African command recently created by the American Government. As I have said before, Guinea-Bissau is not a narco-State and it does not have the resources necessary to successfully confront drug trafficking and terrorism on its own.

Lack of dialogue has also been identified as an obstacle to social stability and is being addressed with the creation of bridges of dialogue among Guineans. In August 2010, an initiative of the National Popular Assembly, with the support of the President of the Republic, began the process of dialogue and listening to society in general and to members of the Assembly in particular. A large number of initiatives have been launched, among which I wish to highlight the holding of a national peace and reconciliation conference that brought together all of the country's stakeholders.

Finally, institutional cooperation among the various branches of Government has been strengthened through a permanent dialogue and joint action between the President and the Prime Minister on the main issues facing the country. Concrete results include greater alignment on foreign policy issues, which has served to stabilize foreign relations.

Recent developments in the economic sphere are very promising. The gains that we have made can be expanded if the continued engagement and support of the international community can be assured. The country has just been granted a significant forgiveness of debt — about $1.2 billion — as a result of the progress achieved in macroeconomic stabilization, the implementation of economic reforms and the improvement in the business environment. With regard to the management of public finances, the reforms have led to improved fiscal performance and helped to reduce the primary deficit. The increase in internal revenue and budget support will allow the Government to stabilize some payments, especially salaries of public employees and payments on the internal debt, thereby contributing to a recovery in economic confidence, liquidity of the banking system and the easing of social tensions.

With regard to improving the business climate, reforms aimed at reducing bureaucracy, simplifying and facilitating the creation of companies and licensing entrepreneurial activity have been instituted. With the objective of attracting foreign direct investment, a vast restructuring programme has been started in certain sectors, including energy, telecommunications and ports.

In the social sector, there is slow improvement in health and education indicators and the country still faces great challenges in addressing the Millennium Development Goals. Life expectancy is still low, as are health and education indicators. And poverty still afflicts a large part of the population. In spite of the progress that we have made and the internal dynamics that have given a great many opportunities for Guineans, the country is still caught in the trap of poverty. Tragically, poverty continues to affect over 60 per cent of the Guinean population. Poverty is at the root of great social ills, instability, tension and crime. The chronic privations that affect certain segments of our society are the cause of behaviours that undermine peace and stability. Guinea-Bissau, because of its small territory, its small and young population and its strong economic potential, has more than enough potential resources to eliminate poverty.

Given the development challenges faced by our country, with our strengths and weaknesses, the Government has reviewed its global poverty reduction strategy. Under our second national poverty reduction strategy, in the next five years we will continue to focus on modernization and policies that seek to improve access to social services, as well as strengthen sectors with the greatest growth potential, such as agriculture, agro-industry, fisheries, tourism and mining. The strategy seeks to generate rapid and durable growth through the diversification of sectors and the opening up of the economy to regional and international trade and foreign investment. This requires significant expansion of the private sector and improved transparency in the investment climate. Success depends on effective support of the international community — particularly in social sectors, rehabilitation and building basic infrastructure that was in large part destroyed during the political-military conflict.

The country's economic success depends on political stability and peace. Therefore, reforms in the defence, security, justice and public administration sectors will continue to be our priorities. It is clear to me that the forward and backward steps of the process of consolidating democratic governance may cause reservations in some partners' decisions to continue to provide support to Guinea-Bissau. However, I want to draw attention to the fact that some people fear change due to a lack of knowledge or information. Such fear was evident among the military class, who considered that reform would lead to negative consequences for their social standing and their quality of life. The intensive sensitization campaigns and strategic debates of the reconciliation process have led to positive results in this regard.

Instability and cyclical crises must not be considered as destiny. Guinea-Bissau is not a failed State. We recognize the fragility of our institutions, but we are determined to proceed with broad, strategic and structural reforms, intensify the fight against drug trafficking and promote durable, sustainable economic growth. We have a very ambitious agenda for our country. Its concretization depends on a number of factors, including internal and external efforts.

The Government continues to stress the need for greater involvement of the international community. My country has received encouraging signs from some States that, while concerned about the problems that we face, believe that if Guinea-Bissau continues the course that generates peace and progress, it has immense opportunities to take the path to development.

The European Union is a global actor, central to the development of peoples. We believe it should continue to carry out its actions in the country, which are very positive and contribute to changing the lives of the people for the better and make it possible to promote the changes that we all desire.

We count on the support of all members of the Security Council in the consultations that we will soon begin with the European Union. The quality of the report just presented to the Council (S/2011/73) is unequivocal proof that Council members follow closely the events in our country and that Guinea-Bissau's efforts and commitment deserves the Council's trust.

Taking advantage of our participation in this important meeting, we cannot but manifest our concern over the events that occurred following the presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the recent demonstrations in Tunisia and in Egypt — repercussions of which remain to be seen in other countries in North Africa and in the Middle East. As a country in difficulty, one that has known the consequences of war and violence, we exhort the United Nations and all peace-loving countries to mobilize in order to find rapid solutions, avoiding further catastrophes the impacts of which could be devastating for the future of our democracies and of the world in general.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to all members of the Security Council here present and to express my satisfaction at this meeting, which in my opinion has been valuable in bringing us closer at such a crucial moment in the political and economic life of my country.

The President: I thank His Excellency Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior for his presentation.

I will now give a briefing in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, and thank him for his presentation. I also warmly welcome the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, National Defence, Justice and for Economy, Planning and Regional Integration, and other members of the delegation of Guinea-Bissau. The presence of such a high-level delegation in this meeting, and in the meeting of the configuration that we held yesterday, is a clear signal of the country's commitment to increasing its cooperation with the international community.

I commend the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau for the comprehensive presentation he has just made, which enables us to better appreciate the many challenges and the opportunities facing Guinea-Bissau. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, for his briefing and his commendable work in Bissau.

In the past few months the configuration has focused its work on specific areas, notably security sector reform, the rule of law, combating drug trafficking and impunity, addressing concerns of youth and women and supporting institution-building. We have not lost sight of the importance of encouraging job creation and promoting a more vigorous economy as crucial elements of a peacebuilding strategy.

In a meeting of the configuration on 22 November 2010, members were briefed by representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Those representatives highlighted the notable progress made by Guinea-Bissau in recent years in the areas of macroeconomic management and public finance, resulting in economic growth, low inflation and an increase in revenue collection. It was their assessment that Guinea-Bissau was on track to reach the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC). Building on the discussions with the IMF and the World Bank, the members of the configuration were encouraged to support the deliberations of the Boards of the IMF and the World Bank concerning Guinea-Bissau.

Last December, the Boards of the IMF and the World Bank declared that Guinea-Bissau had reached the completion point of the HIPC Initiative and decided to support debt relief for the country in the amount of $1.2 billion. I am confident that the measures adopted by the international financial institutions will help lead Guinea-Bissau into a virtuous cycle, since they will, among other positive effects, normalize Guinea-Bissau's relations with external creditors — especially members of the Paris Club, the International Development Association and the African Development Fund — possibly leading to further debt relief; send a positive signal to international donors and investors; reduce the country's dependence on budgetary aid; expand its fiscal space for social programmes; and demonstrate and recognize the progress that the Government of Guinea-Bissau has made in macroeconomic management, which will surely strengthen the civilian authorities and institutions of the country. A window of opportunity has reopened for Guinea-Bissau.

As the Secretary-General pointed out in his latest report (S/2011/73), key economic and public administration reforms are moving forward as the Government of Guinea-Bissau seeks to improve fiscal discipline. Economic growth was expected to reach 4 per cent in 2010, compared to 3 per cent in 2009. The Government has also succeeded in increasing tax revenues in the context of fiscal reforms and anticipates that in 2011 it will have the budgetary resources to cover spending beyond the payment of salaries.

It is also worth noting that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Joint Steering Committee approved the 2011-2013 Peacebuilding Priority Plan for Guinea Bissau, which identifies priorities for the next two to three years, notably to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, to revitalize the economy and to reactivate basic social services. In this regard, we welcome the recommendation of the Secretary-General to allocate up to $16.8 million of the PBF to the implementation of the Priority Plan.

I am encouraged by the progress that Guinea-Bissau has made to reverse the negative effects of the events of 1 April 2010. The release of Vice-Admiral Zamora Induta and other senior officers is emblematic of those efforts. I also note in that respect the positive steps taken by the country's leadership, especially by President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior, to demonstrate their renewed commitment to pursue enhanced dialogue and political negotiations.

The people and the Government of Guinea-Bissau are doing their part to overcome the setbacks of the recent past. The members of the configuration encourage the leadership of the country to take further concrete steps in fighting impunity and enhancing the rule of law and civilian control of the military.

Security sector reform is of fundamental importance. The members of the Peacebuilding Commission configuration for Guinea-Bissau welcomed the road map supported by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries for the implementation of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau and expected its timely endorsement by ECOWAS. They encouraged the Government of Guinea-Bissau to fully commit to its implementation.

The fight against drug trafficking is an issue of grave concern to the members of the Commission. Fighting illicit drugs effectively requires functioning State institutions, especially in the areas of justice and security, as well as firm political will. We emphasize the importance of a regional approach and the role played by ECOWAS in this regard.

Both as individual Governments and collectively, we must all do more and do better to support the implementation of the ECOWAS regional action plan and the West Africa Coast Initiative. In this respect, we welcome the letter of Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior to the Secretary-General of 27 October 2010 expressing the complete engagement of the Government of Guinea-Bissau in energetically pursuing the fight against the plague of drug trafficking and the organized crime associated to it. The signing of a memorandum of understanding by the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Finance establishing a transnational crime unit in Guinea-Bissau is a further positive step in the right direction. We now look forward to the designation of the members of the unit and to discussing ways in which the Peacebuilding Commission can support such efforts.

International efforts to help consolidate peace in Guinea-Bissau should not rest solely upon security-related cooperation. In order for peace to take hold, the foundations for socio-economic development must be strengthened. We need to support capacity-building and assist the country in revitalizing its economy. At the end of the day, it is a dynamic economy and the creation of job opportunities that will generate the revenues needed for the provision of basic services to the population and allow the State to function in a sustainable manner.

We must take advantage of this positive momentum. More than ever, engagement and cooperation with Guinea-Bissau is necessary to assist the country in building democratic governance and effectively addressing key challenges. The international community should step up its support to Guinea-Bissau to help enhance national political stability, promote reconciliation, combat impunity and organized crime and foster socio-economic development.

We must persevere in our collective efforts to support Guinea-Bissau. This requires that national authorities continue the ongoing efforts to fully restore international confidence. It also means that international partners should look beyond the setbacks of the recent past and support long-term political and economic stability in the country.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussions on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6490

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6490th meeting

Friday, 25 February 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to welcome the presence at this meeting of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, whom I now invite to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: I wish to thank the Council for the opportunity to brief it this afternoon. On our agenda is the issue of peace and security in Africa. Before we discuss the deeply disturbing situation in Libya, allow me to quickly update the Council on developments elsewhere in Africa.

We are all gravely concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, as the Council has perhaps seen in my statement earlier today. Clashes between security forces loyal to Mr. Gbagbo and armed groups opposing them have resulted in significant civilian fatalities in several areas of Abidjan.

We are also receiving reports of renewed fighting in the west of the country. Once again, I urge the security forces loyal to Mr. Gbagbo to stop the violence. The Government has a clear responsibility to protect the civilian population. Its armed forces must carry out those responsibilities professionally and impartially. I repeat my call in my statement of Friday, 18 February, to Mr. Gbagbo's camp to end the ongoing military mobilization, the attacks against the civilian population and the obstruction of our peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). I am very concerned that Côte d'Ivoire is on the brink of sliding back into civil war. Time is slipping away. If the African Union High-level Panel does not move decisively to find a solution, all of its work could be overtaken by events.

I note with special concern that Mr. Gbagbo's forces continue to attack civilians and violate human rights even as the Panel made its recent visit. I understand that the Panel will meet again in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in the coming days. The Ivorian people and the international community are counting on them to find a peaceful way out of the crisis.

At the same time, UNOCI is striving to keep open channels of communication with President Outtara's Government and Mr. Gbagbo's camp alike. UNOCI also continues to monitor and investigate human rights violations and to conduct patrols to protect civilians.

As I have said before, Côte d'Ivoire is an important test for democracy throughout Africa. More than 20 elections are scheduled to be held throughout the continent this year. As elsewhere, the region's leaders must listen to their people. They must respect fundamental human rights. When it comes to democracy and free elections, the will of the people must prevail.

We meet at a critical moment — potentially a defining moment — for the Arab world. Fundamental issues of peace and stability are at stake, most immediately at this moment in Libya.

Since my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Council earlier this week (see S/PV.6486), there have been continuing reports of violence and the indiscriminate use of force. Estimates indicate that more than 1,000 people have been killed. The eastern part of the country is reported to be under the control of opposition elements, who have taken over arms and ammunition from weapon depots. There are daily clashes in at least three cities near Tripoli. The streets of the capital are largely deserted. People cannot leave their houses for fear of being shot by Government forces or militias. Colonel Al-Qadhafi's supporters are reportedly conducting house-by-house searches and arrests. According to some reports, they have even gone into hospitals to kill wounded opponents.

Today, clashes broke out again, with high casualties reported. In their public statements, Colonel Al-Qadhafi and members of his family have continued to threaten citizens with a civil war and the possibility of mass killing if the protests continue. There are other allegations of the killing of soldiers who refused to fire upon their countrymen.

Let us speak frankly: these accounts from the press, human rights groups and civilians on the ground raise grave concerns about the nature and scale of the conflict. They include allegations of indiscriminate killings, arbitrary arrests, the shooting of peaceful demonstrators and the detention and torture of the opposition and the use of foreign mercenaries. We are also hearing reports of women and children being among the victims, as well as reports of indiscriminate attacks on foreigners believed to be mercenaries. We know from the Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross that there are dangerous impediments to medical treatment and access for humanitarian workers. We do not have conclusive proof, but the reports appear to be credible and consistent.

I strongly believe that the first obligation of the international community is to do everything possible to ensure the immediate protection of civilians at demonstrable risk. Indeed, if further proof is required, it should be sought simultaneously with measures to afford protection.

Today, the Human Rights Council convened a special session that was requested by nearly 50 Member States, both members and non-members of the Council. It is the first time that a member of the Human Rights Council is the subject of a special session. I welcome the strong stand taken by the Human Rights Council today to establish an independent international committee of inquiry, and I pledge my full support. I also note that the Human Rights Council recommended that the General Assembly consider suspending Libya from the Human Rights Council.

In that regard, I would like to underscore the statement of Ms. Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the Human Rights Council. She reminded member States that, when a State manifestly fails to protect its population from serious international crimes, the international community has the responsibility to step in and take protective action in a collective, timely and decisive manner.

Let me also point out that there are also serious indications of a growing crisis of refugees and displaced persons. Staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) along the Tunisia-Libya border have reported a steady flow of people fleeing the country since 22 February. Some 22,000 have fled through Tunisia, and a reported 15,000 through Egypt. However, they fear that much larger numbers of residents and migrant workers are in fact trapped and unable to leave for safety.

Many of those crossing the border have reported to UNHCR officials that the journey was terrifying. There are widespread reports of refugees being harassed and threatened with guns and knives. It is crucial for humanitarian agencies to have access to the border regions. It is also important for the neighbouring States, including Europe, to keep their borders open to people fleeing Libya. We anticipate the situation to worsen, as the World Food Programme is concerned about Libya's food supplies.

We have seen strong statements from many international leaders and international organizations, among them the League of Arab States, the European Union and the African Union. They have called for an immediate end to the violence and condemned what appeared to be gross violations of human rights. In my conversations with the leaders of the region and the world, and in my public and private statements, I have spoken out bluntly and repeatedly. The violence must stop. Those responsible for so brutally shedding the blood of innocents must be punished. Fundamental human rights must be respected.

My Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect have reminded the national authorities in Libya, as well as in other countries facing large-scale popular protests, that the heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit pledged to protect populations by preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as their incitement. The challenge for us now is how to provide real protection and do all we can to halt the ongoing violence.

As the Council looks to its next steps, I urge it to consider a wide range of options for action. Some of the proposals being considered by the Council include the imposition of trade and financial sanctions, including targeted measures against the leadership, such as a ban on travel and the freezing of financial assets. Some Member States call for a comprehensive arms embargo. Others draw our attention to the clear and egregious violations of human rights taking place in Libya and urge the Security Council to take effective action to ensure real accountability.

It is time for the Security Council to consider concrete action. The hours and days ahead will be decisive for Libyans and their country, with equally important implications for the wider region. The statements and actions of the Security Council are eagerly awaited and will be closely followed throughout the region. Whatever its course, let us be mindful of the urgency of the moment. In these circumstances the loss of time means more loss of lives. On Monday, I will travel to Washington to discuss these and other matters with President Obama.

Allow me to touch on two other developments regarding peace and security on the continent.

First, with respect to the situation in Darfur, the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator continues to engage the Government of the Sudan and the two leading rebel factions — the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement — in Doha. The parties are currently reviewing a draft agreement. It is essential for the international community to step up its engagement and help the parties reach an inclusive and comprehensive peace.

I am also concerned about continued hostilities between the Government and the tactical alliance of rebel groups in Northern Darfur, which has reportedly displaced large numbers of civilians. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur is dispatching patrols to verify those reports and has increased its presence to protect civilians in the area, as well as to provide water and food to those who have been displaced.

Finally, I have been meeting today with President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and President Ali Bongo Ondimba of the Gabonese Republic. At our invitation, the two leaders have come together at the United Nations in an effort to resolve the long-standing border dispute between the two countries. I am pleased to report that the two leaders have reiterated their commitment to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice and to make every effort to conclude the mediation as soon as possible.

I want to underscore that they will have the full support of the United Nations as they work together to find a solution. This is an important demonstration of statesmanship on both sides.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Mr. Shalgham (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, at the outset, to express our gratitude to you, Madame President, for calling this meeting on the situation in my country and the events unfolding there. I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his concern about the situation in my country.

Pol Pot, head of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, was asked why he executed one third of his people. He said he did it because of the people. Before invading the Soviet Union, Hitler recalled Rommel from Libya and told him, "General, I intend to invade the Soviet Union". Rommel told him, "Operation Barbarossa will cost us 2 million lives". Hitler responded, "What does it matter if 2 million Germans die in service to the glory of the Führer?"

What is taking place in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is indeed very dangerous. On 15 February, a group of peaceful civilians protested, calling for the release of a lawyer named Tarbel who was representing the families of 2,000 prisoners who were killed in the Abu Salim prison in 1996. This group faced gunfire aimed at their heads and chests, as if the soldiers who opened fire did not know that human beings have heads, hearts and legs, or that there are other parts than can be shot at, that there are such things as tear gas bombs or roadblocks that can contain demonstrations.

Libyans are asking for democracy; they are asking for progress; they are asking for freedom; and they are asking for their rights. They demonstrated peacefully. They did not throw a single stone. They were killed. What did Brother Muammar Al-Qadhafi say? He said that these people were using hallucinogens. These tens of thousands of people would need mountains of such pills to lose their minds in such a way. One million turned out in Benghazi yesterday. A pile of pills the size of the Akhdar Mountains would not be enough for that many people.

Muammar Al-Qadhafi and his sons are telling Libyans: "Either I rule you or I kill you". That much is clear this evening after dozens of our brothers were killed in Tajura and in eastern Tripoli. He gave a speech to a crowd of children who were brought in from asylums and soldiers dressed in civilian clothes. He told them "I will burn Libya; I will distribute arms to the tribes. Libya will run red with blood". Is this for glory, or is it for the people? Muammar Al-Qadhafi cannot give a single weapon to any person in Libya, because they will not be used for him, they will be used against him.

I regret being in this position. The first time I heard Muammar Al-Qadhafi, he was addressing a secondary school, in the south, in 1959. He was talking about how he wanted freedom for the Congo. In 1960, I listened to him denounce the French nuclear tests in Algeria. In 1961, I listened to him speak out against the separation of Syria and Egypt. Today, I listened to him telling his people "Either I rule over you or I destroy you."

Fear not, Libya is united. Libya will remain united. Libya will be a progressive State. But I say to my brother Al-Qadhafi, leave the Libyans alone. However many of these steadfast people you kill — these people that offered up half of their own numbers to fight Mussolini and Graziani, and this when they were barefoot, hungry and poor — they will not surrender. Libyans will not surrender. Omar Mukhtar said it best: "We will not surrender. Either we achieve victory or we die." We will not surrender. Victory, or death.

When I was a member of the Security Council, representing my country, I talked openly about the murders we saw in Gaza. Muammar Al-Qadhafi said they were followers of Bin Laden. I ask my brother, "Is a six-month-old child who was killed a follower of Bin Laden?" Libya was established by a resolution of the United Nations. Please, United Nations, save Libya. No to bloodshed. No to the killing of innocents. We want a swift, decisive and courageous resolution.

The President: There are no other speakers inscribed on my list.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.6491

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6491st meeting

Saturday, 26 February 2011, 8 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

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The meeting was called to order at 8.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to participate in this meeting.

I wish to welcome the presence at this meeting of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/95, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1970 (2011).

I shall now give the floor to members who wish to make statements following the voting.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): The British Government welcomes the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1970 (2011). The United Kingdom presented the text of this resolution because of our grave concern about the appalling situation in Libya. The violence we have seen and the incitement to further violence by Colonel Al-Qadhafi are totally unacceptable, and my Government has expressed its profound condemnation of them.

Today's resolution demands an immediate end to violence and repression, full respect for human rights and international law, and accountability for those responsible for the violence. It gives practical effect to those demands through travel bans, asset freezes, an arms embargo and immediate referral to the International Criminal Court.

The adoption of resolution 1970 (2011) by all 15 members of the Council is a powerful signal of the determination of the international community to stand with the people of Libya and defend their right to determine their own future.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I take the floor to state that India has been following with serious concern the developments in Libya, which have resulted in the loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We deplore the use of force, which is totally unacceptable. We earnestly hope that calm and stability will be restored at the earliest without any further violence.

We also have concerns about the safety of Indian nationals and their assets in Libya. We urge the authorities there to ensure their safety and welfare and facilitate the departure of those desirous of leaving the country.

India is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Of the 192 Members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the International Criminal Court. Five of the 15 members of the Council, including three permanent members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. Moreover, we would have preferred a calibrated and gradual approach. However, we note that several members of the Council, including our colleagues from Africa and the Middle East, believe that referral to the Court would have the effect of an immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of calm and stability. The letter from the Permanent Representative of Libya of 26 February addressed to you, Madame President, has called for such a referral and strengthened this view. We have therefore gone along with the consensus in the Council.

In this context, we draw attention to paragraph 6 of the resolution, concerning national from countries not parties to the Rome Statute. Similarly, in its preambular portion, the resolution also recalls article 16 of the Rome Statute, under which no investigation or prosecution may be commenced or proceeded with by the International Criminal Court for a period of 12 months after the Security Council request to that effect.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): South Africa remains deeply concerned at the deteriorating situation in Libya, which has resulted in untold atrocities and countless loss in civilian lives. The Libyan people, joined by the rest of the international community, have been calling for an end to this indiscriminate use of force. Echoing that call, the Libyan delegation, appearing before the Council yesterday, pleaded for "a swift, decisive and courageous resolution" to put an end to the bloodshed and killing of innocent people" (*see S/PV.6490*). The Council has responded swiftly and resolutely to that call.

This unanimous resolution sends a clear and unambiguous message to the Libyan authorities to end the carnage against their people. Further, it complements the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which strongly condemned the indiscriminate and excessive use of force against peaceful protesters and called upon the Libyan authorities to end forthwith all acts of violence, in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

We are confident that the measures contained in this resolution will contribute to the long-term objective of bringing peace and stability to this sisterly nation. South Africa calls on the Government and people of Libya to seek a speedy and peaceful resolution to the current crisis, in accordance with the will of the Libyan people.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): We are indeed glad to have arrived at a decision point on the situation in Libya. Nigeria remains deeply concerned about the escalating violence, the inflammatory rhetoric and the deplorable loss of life we are witnessing in Libya. The African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States have all condemned the disproportionate use of force against civilians in Libya and have called for the immediate cessation of such violence.

It is therefore fitting that the Security Council has taken decisive action today to address the crisis. We support the package of sanctions in the resolution to the extent that their impact is targeted and does not exacerbate the burden upon Libyan citizens. We have taken into consideration the letter dated today from the Permanent Representative of Libya supporting the measures as we have proposed. We are further persuaded by the cries for help of the Libyan people.

In response to these calls for action, the comprehensive sanctions will deter individuals from supporting or otherwise assisting the regime. Moreover, the terms of the resolution will isolate those currently planning, coordinating and directing the atrocities.

Nigeria is satisfied that the resolution provides for the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. We believe that the full implementation of these measures will swiftly and effectively address the ongoing crisis.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): When atrocities are committed against innocents, the international community must speak with one voice and today, it has. Tonight, acting under Chapter VII, the Security Council has come together to condemn the violence, pursue accountability and adopt biting sanctions targeting Libya's unrepentant leadership. This is a clear warning to the Libyan Government that it must stop the killing. Those who slaughter civilians will be held personally accountable. The international community will not tolerate violence of any sort against the Libyan people by their Government or security forces.

Resolution 1970 (2011) is a strong resolution. It includes a travel ban and an assets freeze for key Libyan leaders. It imposes a complete arms embargo on Libya. It takes new steps against the use of mercenaries by the Libyan Government to attack its own people. And, for the first time ever, the Security Council has unanimously referred an egregious human rights situation to the International Criminal Court.

As President Obama said today, when a leader's only means of staying in power is to use mass violence against its own people, he has lost the legitimacy to rule and needs to do what is right for his country, by leaving now.

The protests in Libya are being driven by the people of Libya. This is about people's ability to shape their own future, wherever they may be. It is about human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Security Council has acted today to support the Libyan people's universal rights. These rights are not negotiable. They cannot be denied. Libya's leaders will be held accountable for violating these rights and for failing to meet their most basic responsibilities to their people.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Council of the League of Arab States held an emergency meeting on 22 February to discuss the situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Council denounced the crimes committed against the peaceful popular protests and demonstrations taking place in several Libyan cities and in the capital, Tripoli. It also expressed its profound condemnation of the acts of violence committed against civilians, especially the use of foreign mercenaries, live ammunition, heavy weapons and other methods against the demonstrators, all of which are grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Council also called for an immediate halt to all acts of violence, a resort to national dialogue, a response to the legitimate demands of the Libyan people and respect for their rights to demonstrate and exercise their freedom of expression, so as to prevent further bloodshed, preserve peace, the territorial integrity of Libya and civil order and ensure the safety of Libyan citizens.

When the Libyan authorities did not respond to that call, Lebanon decided — in line with the Arab consensus, the African Union statement of 23 February and the position of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference — to vote in favour of this resolution.

On this occasion, as we did at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, Lebanon would like to reaffirm the importance of defending Libya's territorial integrity and the unity of its people. Lebanon proudly salutes those who were martyred while exercising their freedom of expression in Libya. We also express our deep condolences for the hundreds killed and thousands injured among the Arab Libyan people.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation supported Security Council resolution 1970 (2011) because of our serious concern over the events taking place in Libya. We sincerely regret the many lives lost among the civilian population. We condemn the use of military force against peaceful demonstrators and all other manifestations of violence and consider them absolutely unacceptable. We call for an immediate end to such actions.

We exhort the Libyan authorities to comply with the demands of the international community, including the League of Arab States and the African Union, which demands have received the support of the Security Council. This is necessary in order to prevent a full-scale civil war and to preserve Libya as a united, sovereign State with territorial integrity.

All the parties involved must show restraint and observe the norms of international civil and human rights law. Reliable security must be ensured for those foreigners who remain in Libya, including Russian citizens, and conditions for their safe return home must be established.

A settlement of the situation in Libya is possible only through political means. In fact, that is the purpose of the resolution adopted by the Council, which imposes targeted, clearly expressed, restrictive measures with regard to those guilty of violence against the civilian population. However, it does not enjoin sanctions, even indirect, for forceful interference in Libya's affairs, which could make the situation worse.

Russia, in cooperation with international and regional partners, will continue actively to help the friendly people of Libya to find a peaceful way out of the current crisis.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China is deeply concerned over the turbulent situation in Libya. In our view, it is of the greatest urgency to secure the immediate cessation of violence, avoid further bloodshed and civilian casualties, restore stability and normal order as soon as possible, and resolve the current crisis through peaceful means, such as dialogue. The safety and interests of foreign nationals in Libya must be assured throughout this process.

Taking into consideration the special situation in Libya at this time and the concerns and views of the Arab and African countries, the Chinese delegation voted in favour of resolution 1970 (2011), which the Council just adopted.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to express to the Security Council the satisfaction of the Government of Colombia with resolution 1970 (2011), which the Council has just adopted — the result of a timely and responsible consultation process in keeping with the sense of urgency that the situation and the international community demand. Unanimously and with determination, the Council has conveyed a firm and blunt message: the violence must cease and those responsible for attacks against the population must answer for their crimes. Thus the decision to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC) is most appropriate.

We have followed the escalation of the violence and repression of the population with concern. Colombia reiterates the urgency of stopping them and demands that the Libyan authorities strictly comply with their international obligations and with international human rights law.

We unequivocally reject the calls for violence from official sectors and condemn the violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Libyan people. The State must assume its primary responsibility to guarantee the security and the rights of its citizens, including the rights to life, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

My country has maintained a firm and coherent position in all forums where this situation has been examined. We co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/S-15/2, which established an international commission of inquiry into the violations in Libya and recommended suspension of that country's membership. Additionally, we co-sponsored the resolution that submits that recommendation to the General Assembly for consideration.

Libya must find ways to respond effectively to the legitimate aspirations of its people in the search for a more just and equitable society, in which its citizens can freely exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms. Reconciliation will require the establishment of responsibility, confronting impunity and ensuring that those who commit or have committed crimes against humanity are brought to justice. The international community must remain united and continue taking measures leading to stopping the violations that the executioners of the Libyan people ruthlessly commit.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Portugal welcomes the adoption of resolution 1970 (2011). It particularly welcomes the fact that it was adopted unanimously. The Council thus was united in sending a clear, swift and strong message to the perpetrators of heinous crimes taking place in Libya.

Portugal calls for an immediate cessation of violence in Libya. The killing of civilians and intolerable abuses of human rights must cease forthwith. We are deeply concerned with the plight of the increasing number of refugees, and we consider that humanitarian assistance must be allowed without hindrance.

The basic freedoms of the Libyan people must be respected and guaranteed. The safety of foreign nationals must be assured as well as the safe exit of those who wish to leave the country. Finally, impunity will not be tolerated, and the perpetrators of these crimes against civilians will be prosecuted.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): Yesterday the Permanent Representative of Libya made to this Council a moving appeal for assistance. France welcomes the fact that the Council has today unanimously and forcefully responded to that appeal.

In the face of the continued brutal and bloody repression and the threatening statements made by the Libyan leadership, the Security Council has reiterated its demand for an immediate stop to the use of force against the civilian population. As the High Commissioner for Human Rights said, and as recalled in resolution 1970 (2011), crimes against humanity may be being committed in Libya. That is why we have decided to refer the matter to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court so that he can initiate an investigation and so that the Court might judge thee principals responsible for crimes. Today, faced with the atrocities we have seen, impunity is no longer an option. The International Criminal Court in this matter once again finds justification for its existence.

We have also decided to impose an embargo on arms — the arms that President Al-Qadhafi has chosen to turn against his own people. We have, finally, decided to sanction the individuals who are at the head of a regime that has chosen to commit atrocities.

The text, unanimously adopted today, recalls the responsibility of each State to protect its own population and of the international community to intervene when States fail in their duty. We hope that the responsible parties of the Libyan regime will hear the message of the international community and put an end to the unacceptable violence committed against their own people, who have the right to democracy, freedom and justice.

A wind of liberty has arisen south of the Mediterranean. The Security Council had to meet this date with history on the side of the Libyan people. That is the historic significance of the vote this evening — a vote that we hope will open, beyond Libya, a new era for the international community as a whole.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Germany welcomes the Council's swift and decisive action. We are particularly pleased that the Council is acting in unity.

Today the Council has sent out a clear and strong message. The international community will not tolerate the gross and systematic violation of human rights by the Libyan regime. That is what we owe to the Libyan people, and that is why we imposed sanctions on the Libyan leadership. The unanimous referral of the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court demonstrates our resolve not to allow impunity.

This is a clear warning to those who perpetrate systematic attacks against their civilian population that they will be held accountable. It should be clear to everyone that the Council will continue to follow the situation in Libya very closely.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Unfortunately, we have reached the point where time is of the utmost importance. As we speak, the lives of Libyan citizens are being threatened or even taken. Therefore, we consider that the Security Council had to react unanimously and urgently by imposing appropriate measures to ensure the end of violence and to prevent further escalation or spillover effects. We consider that resolution 1970 (2011) will contribute to strengthening international peace and security.

We have been closely following the enthusiasm of the Libyan people, expressed through peaceful demonstrations, and, in their aftermath, have heard with compassion of the deaths of at least a thousand people. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the families who have lost their loved ones in the past turbulent days.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is appalled by the unacceptable level of violence against Libyan civilians. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. We stand by our position that the perpetrators of such crimes must be held accountable. Thus we fully support the decision to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and we urge the Libyan authorities to cooperate with the Court and the Prosecutor.

Bosnia and Herzegovina calls for an immediate stop to the violence. We urge the Libyan authorities to refrain from any military or other violent attempt to resolve the ongoing unrest but rather to seek through Libyan-led dialogue ways to meet the aspirations and demands of the people.

Another extremely urgent matter is the humanitarian aspect of the crisis. Bosnia and Herzegovina is worried by information about the flow of refugees fleeing the violence in their country and about a considerable number of internally displaced persons. We call upon the authorities of Libya to enable humanitarian organizations to address the food scarcity and medical supply shortage and to provide for basic needs and services to the citizens of Libya.

Finally, we reiterate our call on the Libyan authorities to ensure that all measures have been taken to fully protect citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other foreign nationals residing in Libya.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): The situation in Libya for almost two weeks required an answer and a clear and strong message from the Security Council, in accordance with the responsibility entrusted to it by the Charter of our Organization. That is why Gabon has voted with the other members of the Council, not only to condemn the killing of peaceful demonstrators but to make the Libyan regime aware of the consequences of such actions.

Gabon is ready to associate itself with other measures that the international community may adopt to protect innocent lives in Libya and to ensure the legitimate rights of the Libyan people to free speech and peace in their country.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Brazil.

Brazil voted in favour of the resolution 1970 (2011). We are deeply disturbed by the dramatic situation in Libya. The level of violence against the civilian population is totally unacceptable. The Government of Brazil has publicly and firmly condemned the use of violence and called on the authorities in Libya to uphold and protect the right of free expression of the protesters, as well as to seek a solution to the crisis through dialogue. The measures we are adopting today are meant to halt violence, ensure the protection of the civilian population and promote respect for international law.

By adopting this resolution as a matter of urgency, the Security Council has sent a clear signal of its readiness to respond to the situation in Libya in a manner consistent with its responsibilities. In our deliberations today, Brazil paid due regard to the views expressed by the League of Arab States and the African Union, as well as to the requests made by the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations. Brazil also had in mind the need to ensure the safety of all foreign nationals, including those who are still on the ground and wish to leave the country.

Brazil is a long-standing supporter of the integrity and universality of the Rome Statute. We oppose the exemption from jurisdiction of nationals of those countries not parties to the Rome Statute. In the face of the gravity of the situation in Libya and the urgent need for the Council to send a strong, unified message, my delegation supported this resolution. However, we express our strong reservation concerning paragraph 6. We reiterate our conviction that initiatives aimed at establishing exemptions of certain categories of individuals from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court are not helpful to advancing the cause of justice and accountability and will not contribute to strengthening the role of the Court.

Brazil hopes that this resolution can contribute to bringing an end to the violence in Libya, so that the country can quickly find a solution to the crisis through dialogue and reconciliation. Continued engagement on the part of the international community will be essential to ensuring that the bloodshed stops definitively and that stability returns to Libya.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to express our most sincere condolences over the thousands of martyrs who have fallen under the repression of the Libyan regime since 15 February and before, especially those who died at Abu Salim prison 1996. I would also like to thank you, Madame President, and all the members of the Council for having unanimously adopted resolution 1970 (2011).

The Tripoli regime no longer has any legitimacy. It goes without saying that this resolution represents strong moral support for our steadfast people, who are resisting the onslaught of firepower launched against them by the butcher of Tripoli. This is a crucial, landmark decision by the international community against the backdrop of the carnage we are witnessing today in Libya. It is a sincere attempt to protect civilians.

This resolution will send a signal for a definitive end to the fascist regime that is still in place in Tripoli. I would like to take this opportunity to launch a sincere fraternal appeal to all the officers in the armed forces in Libya to side with their own people and immediately renounce their support for Al-Qadhafi — that criminal leader — and no longer participate in these crimes and murders. This is a leader who loves no one but himself and who is prepared to take all necessary steps to continue this repression against his own people. I would also like to appeal to my brothers, the Libyan officers: the leader is himself soon going to abandon you — unless you first take the right decision now.

The Libyan people are known for their tolerance. The most important thing for the people at this stage is to put an end to this regime. Our people are not seeking, and will not seek, vengeance. Our people are aware of the very difficult repression they have to face. We know how people's money is used to kill people. I launch an appeal to the sons of Libya to help our youth to restore Libya to the Libyans. It is our duty to work to restore our State to our people, and there is no doubt that this will happen very soon.

I am pleased that the Security Council will refer this matter to the International Criminal Court to investigate the crimes committed in Libya since 15 February. I am also pleased with regard to the positive interaction of the members of the Council and their response to these incidents. I am pleased that sanctions are not being imposed against those who ultimately decided to abandon the regime of Colonel Al-Qadhafi. Here, I would like to thank the officer Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm. I ask other officers like him to take the same decision so that they will one day not be tried by the International Criminal Court.

I would like to thank the Council once again. I hope that my people will soon be able to realize their dream of liberty and an end to this dictatorial regime.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Let me express my appreciation to the Security Council for its work today.

I welcome resolution 1970 (2011), which the Council has just adopted unanimously. While it cannot by itself end the violence and the repression, it is a vital step and a clear expression of the will of a united community of nations.

The actions taken by the regime in Libya are clear-cut violations of all norms governing international behaviour, and serious transgressions of international human rights and humanitarian law. They are unacceptable. It is of great importance that the Council, in response, has reached a consensus and is determined to uphold its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security.

When I addressed the Council yesterday (see S/PV.6490), I noted that fundamental issues of peace and stability were at stake across the Arab world and that our collective challenge was how to provide real protection and halt the ongoing violence. I urged the Council to consider all options for action. It has now done so in a wide-ranging resolution. The text sends a strong message that gross violations of basic human rights will not be tolerated and that those responsible for grave crimes will be held accountable. I hope the message is heard and heeded by the regime in Libya. I hope it will also bring hope and relief to those still at risk.

The sanctions that the Council has imposed are a necessary step to speed the transition to a new system of governance that will have the consent and participation of the people. For my part, I will continue to monitor the situation closely and remain in close touch with world and regional leaders to ensure their support for swift and concrete international action.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my solidarity with the people of Libya as they brave the bloodshed and as they cope with possible shortages of food and medical supplies and other humanitarian impacts. As the Libyan people take their destiny into their hands, as is their right, I hope that the new future for which they yearn — peaceful, prosperous and democratic — will soon be theirs.

I commend the Security Council for its decisive action today. In the days ahead, we will look for similarly decisive steps from the General Assembly and the international community as a whole. Today's measures are tough. In the coming days, if needed, even bolder action may become necessary.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

There are no more speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 8.55 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6492

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6492nd meeting

Monday, 28 February 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Viotti	(Brazil)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Marinčić
	China	Mr. Rao Wu
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Demekhin
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. Black

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 21 January 2011 from the Ombudsperson addressed to the president of the Security Council (S/2011/29)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 21 January 2011 from the Ombudsperson addressed to the president of the Security Council (S/2011/29)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/29, containing a letter dated 21 January 2011 from the Ombudsperson addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council underlines that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and the social and economic development of all Member States, and undermines global stability and prosperity, and emphasizes the importance of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime as an essential tool in combating the threat posed by terrorist activity.
>
> "The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations and further recalls Article 103 of the Charter.
>
> "The Security Council stresses the need for full implementation of all its resolutions and statements on terrorism, including resolution 1904 (2009).
>
> "The Security Council recalls the establishment of an Office of the Ombudsperson pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009) to assist in considering delisting requests submitted by, or on behalf of, an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the list created pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and resolution 1333 (2000) ("the Consolidated List"), underlines its commitment to ensuring that the Office of the Ombudsperson is able to continue to carry out its role effectively, in accordance with its mandate, and, in that regard, undertakes to renew the Office's mandate in June 2011.
>
> "The Security Council welcomes the first report of the Ombudsperson submitted pursuant to annex II of resolution 1904 (2009) (S/2011/29) and the work of the Ombudsperson to date.
>
> "The Security Council takes note of the observations in the report, to which it will respond in the context of the renewal of the Ombudsperson's mandate in June 2011 in order to ensure that any necessary improvements to the Ombudsperson procedure are implemented.
>
> "The Security Council underlines the improvements to the procedures of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) ("the Committee") and to the Consolidated List and the seriousness with which the Committee undertakes its mandate to carry out regular and in-depth reviews of entries on the Consolidated List, and expresses its intent to continue efforts to ensure that procedures are fair and clear.
>
> "The Security Council underlines the important role of the Ombudsperson in ensuring fair and clear procedures for individuals designated pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and encourages individuals seeking delisting from the Consolidated List to pursue their case through the Ombudsperson.
>
> "The Security Council welcomes the observation by the Ombudsperson that States have been cooperative in responding to requests and providing information in the cases and looks forward to Member States' continued cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson."

The statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/5.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Since this is likely the last public meeting in which I shall participate in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of February, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank all Council members for their cooperation and flexibility during this eventful and even historic month, in which the Council was called upon to deal with important and, in some instances, unexpected challenges. My gratitude also goes to the Secretariat for its continued support to the presidency.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6493

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6493rd meeting

Thursday, 3 March 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Li Baodong	(China)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Marinčić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Raguttahalli
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/74)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of March, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of February 2011. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Viotti and her delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Expression of welcome to the new Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like, at the outset of the meeting, to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Council to the new Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Noël Nelson Messone. We look forward to cooperating closely with him.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/74)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/106, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2011/74, which contains a letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1971 (2011).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6494th meeting

Thursday, 10 March 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Li Baodong	(China)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bellingham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia

Letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/114)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia

Letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/114)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representatives of Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, and request the Protocol Officer to escort him to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, to participate in this meeting. On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome Mr. Mahiga, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Mogadishu.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Boubacar Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union for Somalia, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

I recognize the presence at this meeting of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham MP.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/114, which contains a letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, containing a concept paper on the item under consideration.

The question of Somalia involves the peace and security of the Horn of Africa, the African continent and the whole world. In recent years, thanks to the joint efforts of Somalia and the international community, and the United Nations in particular, progress has been made towards the settlement of the question of Somalia. But formidable challenges remain. This open debate of the Security Council is aimed at urging the international community to give greater and more sustained attention to the question of Somalia and to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace, security and development in Somalia.

I now invite the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank Ambassador Li Baodong of China for convening this meeting and for rallying the international community to the cause of Somalia during this critical period. I wish him all the best as President of the Security Council. I appreciate his leadership.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of Somalia for his participation in today's meeting. I would also like to recognize the participation of His Excellency Minister Henry Bellingham of the United Kingdom, as well as that of Mr. Boubacar Diarra, Special Representative for Somalia of the Commission of the African Union, whom I thank for all his contributions.

I am pleased that we are able to have this meeting with the participation of my Special Representative, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, who is joining us by videolink from Somalia. I am grateful for his contributions and those of the staff of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia directed at keeping the political process moving. I also thank our staff at the United Nations Office in Nairobi and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for working so tirelessly and for assisting in the medical evacuation of troops, especially in the past few weeks.

The situation in Somalia requires urgent attention. The military gains of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and AMISOM are fragile. The humanitarian situation is dire, and violence continues to rage. And given the calls for good governance and a decent life in North Africa and the Middle East, public expectations are likely to grow in Somalia, too. If we act now, we can consolidate recent gains and set Somalia on a more promising course.

In recent heavy fighting, dozens of brave peacekeepers of AMISOM from Burundi and Uganda made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. There are also rising numbers of civilian casualties. I have spoken with Presidents Nkurunziza and Museveni to express my gratitude for their continued commitment to Somalia. I also offered my condolences to the families of the victims.

The TFG and AMISOM have succeeded in expanding the line of control in Mogadishu. The TFG and its ally, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, have opened new fronts in southern Somalia and taken control of major towns previously held by insurgent groups. We must help them to sustain these gains in order to restore security and deliver basic services, humanitarian aid and support for recovery and reconstruction. Such improvements for the people of Somalia and the thousands of internally displaced persons in zones controlled by the TFG are critical to sustaining the hard-won military gains.

AMISOM and the TFG forces are delivering on the military front. AMISOM would be even more effective if it had more resources, including helicopters, and support for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The international community must keep its end of the bargain. There are critical gaps in the United Nations support package to AMISOM and significant shortfalls of military assets and equipment. I appeal to Member States to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM and to reimburse contingent-owned equipment and troop-contributing countries.

We must also enable AMISOM to reach its full authorized strength. Building a viable force is as much about troop numbers as it is about the assets that support them. This would enable the TFG to establish greater space under its control, foster direct links between the Government and its citizens, and promote political dialogue and reconciliation. It would also make it possible for the United Nations to expand its presence in Somalia.

At the same time, Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) have to rise to the challenge on the political and governance fronts, and in achieving stability. Clear political objectives must frame the military objectives. The TFIs collectively have an opportunity to consolidate their authority in the areas under their control, but this opportunity may not last. The TFIs must find unity of purpose. That spirit should be the driving force behind the talks on the end of the current transitional period and the next chapter for Somalia. Disagreements on the transition could have a negative impact on the security situation and stabilization efforts, including the fate of newly trained members of the Somalia forces.

Moreover, any extension of the transition period must be earned. The focus should be on fulfilling outstanding tasks for the transition, including the constitutional process. Constitution-building is paramount because it provides a platform for national reconciliation. The process would finally allow Somalis to choose their own fate, their own framework for governance, and their own leaders. This exercise should be open and inclusive. My Special Representative, Mr. Mahiga, has been working to facilitate consensus on these issues. He has also been working closely with the various clan and religious leaders to expand the reconciliation process, as stipulated in the Djibouti Agreements.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a grave and growing menace. The international community has mobilized to stamp out piracy and bring the perpetrators to justice. I welcome improved information-sharing and coordination, as well as the deployment of significant military and other assets. But attacks are increasing in number, and the pirates are expanding their geographic reach. The recent report (S/2011/30, annex) of my Special Adviser on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Mr. Jack Lang, highlights the need for urgent action.

We must forge an integrated response based on three pillars: deterrence, development, and security.

The United Nations Political Office for Somalia, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Maritime Organization, recently revitalized the Kampala process, a mechanism for dialogue that brings together the TFG, Somaliland, Puntland and other regional Somali authorities. I hope this important forum will continue to meet throughout the year.

I am also concerned about the drought unfolding in Somalia. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that drought has displaced some 50,000 people during the past two months. Many are moving to urban areas in search of help. In the Hiraan region of Central Somalia, 70 per cent of the population is in crisis. Food has not been distributed there since the World Food Programme was forced to suspend its operations there in January 2010.

In addition to drought, hostilities are forcing people to flee their homes and villages. According to UNHCR, every week for the past few weeks some 2,500 Somalis have been registered in the overcrowded Dadaab camps in Kenya. Before the fighting and drought, that number was less than 400. Mogadishu reached a terrible milestone last year when 7,600 people were reported to have weapons-related injuries — the highest toll in more than a decade. That disturbing trend has continued this year, with more than 1,000 weapons-related injuries reported in the city's hospitals since January.

This year's humanitarian appeal for Somalia seeks $529 million for urgent needs. As of last month, only one-quarter of that amount had been funded. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator has allocated $15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund. An additional $50 million has been allocated from pooled funding to respond to the drought. But if the traditional long rains fail in April, the situation will deteriorate even further. Inadequate funding is not the only obstacle; we also lack access to areas of conflict and insecurity where needs are greatest.

Somalia urgently needs our help. It faces levels of violence, damaging weather conditions and insecurity that would shake even strong countries. AMISOM and the TFG have made some progress, but they need more support. If we reinforce the military gains, provide humanitarian relief and achieve political progress, we can set Somalia on course to greater stability and peace. If we fail, we risk a growing humanitarian crisis, a deteriorating security situation, and a worsening threat to regional peace and stability.

I welcome the Security Council's decision to authorize more troops for Somalia, as well as the Council's focus on the situation today. But AMISOM and the TFG need more than authorized troop levels. They need actual troops, equipment and enhanced capacity. And the Somali people need to see real, tangible improvement. They need humanitarian assistance, political stability and a constitutional process that offers hope.

Let us do all we can to make that possible. By working together and thinking ahead, we can establish the conditions in which Somalis can steer their country out of violence and into a future free from want and free from fear.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

Mr. Mohamed (Somalia): It gives me a great pleasure to appear before this body today to report about the success that the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI), including my Government, have achieved during their first 100 days in office, as well as the challenges ahead as we bring to a close the seventh year of the transitional federal system of governance in our nation. I come before the Council today to give an update on the progress we have made, the challenges we face and the strategies that we hope to employ to mitigate those challenges.

As I mentioned in January (see S/PV.6467) and as stipulated in the road map, my Government's five main priorities are to improve security, enhance reconciliation, complete the transitional tasks — including the completion of our constitutional process — address humanitarian crises and promote good governance.

Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the ongoing support to Somalia from the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the international community. That unwavering support is critical to our efforts to rid Somalia of its sworn enemy, the Al-Shabaab, which is part of a vast global terrorist network. In particular, we are especially grateful to the young men and women who make up the AU troops. Hailing from Uganda and Burundi, they are sacrificing their lives for Somalia. We salute and mourn those who paid the ultimate price. We are eternally grateful for their priceless sacrifice.

Let me state in no uncertain terms that my Government is the Council's committed and credible partner in defeating our two common enemies, namely, Al-Shabaab and lawlessness — that is, piracy. Our troops and the forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are currently making tangible progress in reclaiming large portions of territory from the enemy throughout the country, including the nation's capital, Mogadishu, and its surroundings, as shown in the map I have provided. As we mobilize the Somali people behind these security successes and forge ahead on our explicit road map in the next few months, we are confident that we will meet our objectives in bringing most of southern Somalia under the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). It is our view that by meeting that objective we will be that much closer to attaining the transitional tasks set out in our Federal Charter.

We are in the first line of defence against two evils, namely, the scourge of piracy and the plague of terrorism. We need to defeat them at the source, which requires cooperation and collaboration between us and the international community. Fighting these twin evils requires moral fortitude and a strong political will from us, the Somalis, and strong commitment and support from the international community. We have to understand that lawlessness is both the root cause and the breeding ground for both terrorism and piracy, coupled with poverty and unemployment and permeated by fanaticism and religious indoctrination.

We recently saw the human face of piracy when four innocent Americans were killed by ruthless pirates. Our heart goes out to their loved ones. The scourge of piracy cannot be defeated on the high seas. Its solution lies in bringing back the rule of law to Somalia and helping coastal communities to develop alternative livelihoods. Moreover, not only are these two ills working in tandem, but they are learning from each other. It will not surprise us if Al-Qaida agents in Somalia start hijacking tankers in the high seas and using them as deadly weapons, as they did in September 2001. Why bother with a small plane when you can capture a tanker?

During the past 100 days, my new Government, comprised of 18 ministers who are able technocrats from within and outside the country, is changing the political landscape and earning the respect of our citizens and our partners in the international community. We are fully and forcefully engaged in implementing good governance to improve our capacity and to realize our national road map, which includes the following.

With regard to accountability and transparency in financial management, we have, for the first time, established measures that will enhance the collection of public revenues from both the seaport and the airport of Mogadishu, the two main revenue-generating Government services in the public sector, as well as the distribution of public funds. Since then public-revenue collections have improved significantly, in line with the annual State budget for 2011 approved by the Parliament and the audited accounts of 2010, which have been submitted to our international partners.

With regard to the anti-corruption taskforce, following more than 20 years of statelessness, corruption in Somalia has became endemic, with the pilfering of public funds being an activity undertaken shamelessly. Against that backdrop, the anti-corruption taskforce is an essential and necessary deterrent measure to end the abuse and misuse of public funds, goods and property. Members of my Cabinet and I are were the first signatories of these anti-corruption rules and procedures, so as to send the message that this Government has a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and the appalling practices of the past.

With regard to enhancing the delivery of services, it is essential to empower and rebuild the capacity of Government institutions so as to reach our citizens. Some of the successes achieved in that regard involve public safety and security, new or improved public health services, the opening of new schools, the installation of new street lights and cleaning and waste collection services.

With regard to the security sector, with improved street lighting and police patrols day and night, the Government-controlled areas of Mogadishu are a lot safer, as indicated by the growing nightlife in the streets. Another critical component of our security strategy involves the ongoing reform of the services.

These reform efforts are focused on providing the necessary logistics, tools and equipment, as well as paying salaries on time.

Let me emphasize the urgent need of deploying the additional 4,000 AU troops approved by the Security Council to reinforce the efforts to bring about peace and stability.

An equally important priority for my Government is the establishment of a credible and effective disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programme. After 20 years of continuous conflict, many of our youth have not experienced peaceful coexistence in their entire lives. Restoring their faith in society and Government and reintegrating them into their communities is a long-term task that we must initiate immediately. We have devised the means to welcome and assist a rising number of youth defectors from the ranks of Al-Shabaab. To that end, we are also searching for effective means to counter the soul-destroying radicalization efforts of the insurgent groups, not just in Somalia but also in diaspora communities around the world. That is absolutely critical if we are to win the hearts and minds of our youth and to secure their future.

Regarding the constitutional development process, in our quest to reform the TFG model, we have undertaken, with our international partners, a process that has produced a draft constitution. To expedite that further, we now have in place an independent constitutional commission, a parliamentary constitutional committee and a cabinet-level ministry that are hard at work coordinating and finalizing the draft constitution and achieving the necessary consensus within the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Somali public.

With regard to reconciliation and outreach, we all agree that reconciliation and conflict resolution at the local, regional and national levels are the cornerstone of peace and security in our nation. In that spirit, my Government continues to engage in and to facilitate the resolution of conflict through dialogue and peaceful means.

That is evidenced by the achievements of the two Cabinet-led missions to the central regions in the past 100 days. The first resolved the hot war between two clans in Galmudug and Puntland, and the second between clans in Galmudug and Himan and Heeb. Our agreement with Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a is holding firm and is being implemented; and it will continue to be part and parcel of the current Government. Let me highlight again that the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and TFG forces are jointly conducting security operations in many parts of the country with a successful outcome.

Regarding humanitarian assistance, with the expanding security operations and a debilitating drought across the country, there has been a major increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Mogadishu alone, up to 80,000 IDPs have moved into Government-controlled areas. We appeal to the international community for urgent medical and food assistance to help the IDPs. For our part, in addition to the port and airport facilities in Mogadishu, we are opening up new corridors along our borders, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country.

As is clear from this summary of our road map, my Cabinet and I have the will and the commitment to rebuild State institutions so as to meet the basic requirements of our citizens. We are winning the hearts and minds of the Somali population. A recent study conducted by Mogadishu Media House, an independent local media organization, released this month shows that 75 per cent of the people surveyed in Mogadishu indicated strong displeasure with Al-Shabaab and its extremist ideology. Of the participants, 70 per cent recognized that the TFG is making a great effort to reach out to the regions and the opposition groups. Finally, 75 per cent rated AMISOM and the African Union forces as friends of the Somali people. That is clearly a far cry from the general public view only a few months earlier.

On transitional issues, the transitional period will end on 20 August. Although the seven-year term of the current TFG has had its ups and downs, some progress has been achieved. Nonetheless, I am here today to underpin our ongoing consultations as partners with a common interest in reaching a consensus on the post-transitional framework.

First and foremost, as confirmed by the Cabinet meeting in Mogadishu on 7 March, the executive branch has approved and adopted the following: first, the formal end of the TFG term on 20 August 2011, in accordance with the Charter; secondly, the election of the Speaker and the deputies to be held in July 2011; thirdly, the election of the President to be held in August 2011; fourthly, the new Government should be given ample time to fulfil the remaining transitional tasks, including the ratification of the constitution and the establishment of the election commission; fifthly, parliamentary reform to commence immediately in line with the ongoing reform of the executive branch and the security sector; and sixthly, a caretaker Government to be appointed by the new leadership to move the country to permanent statehood.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm our commitment to our people and to the international community. I state before the Council that we will regain our land, our identity and our dignity from the extremists. We will not compromise the interests of our nation or the future of our children. We will do whatever it takes to regain our status as a State that protects its borders from enemies, foreign and domestic, ends all forms of international piracy, protects its citizens, and produces a nation at peace with itself and its neighbours.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Prime Minister Mohamed for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Boubacar Diarra.

Mr. Diarra: On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to brief the Council on the situation in Somalia and, in particular, to contribute to the debate on a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia. I also want to offer Mr. Jean Ping's regrets and apologies for his inability to personally join in today's debate. Chairperson Ping asked me to convey to you, Mr. President, his best wishes for success during your presidency of the Council.

Allow me to begin by reiterating the appreciation of the African Union to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General and all States members of the Security Council for the interest and commitment to addressing the situation in Somalia. The number and frequency of debates held on Somalia is a clear testament to that. Another eloquent testimony is the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security, and in addressing the situation in Somalia in particular. That partnership is yielding positive and tangible results. We appreciate and value the partnership.

Despite the Council's support and some positive results, the situation in Somalia remains challenging. I will begin with the political situation. With the current transitional arrangement coming to an end on 20 August and key transitional tasks, such as the adoption of a draft constitution, still outstanding, the political situation in Somalia is at a critical juncture.

In order to address the need for a post-transitional arrangement, the Assembly of the African Union, at its sixteenth ordinary session, endorsed the decision taken by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) at its extraordinary session on Somalia to extend the term of the Transitional Federal Parliament so as to allow for the remaining political dispensation to be handled by the people of Somalia. In line with that decision, on 3 February the Parliament passed a resolution extending its term for a further three years.

Together with IGAD and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), we are channelling all efforts to implement the decision of the African Union Summit, in particular through, first, the conduct of elections for the Speaker of Parliament and the President; secondly, parliamentary reforms to enhance the legitimacy and inclusiveness of the Transitional Federal Parliament; and, thirdly, the establishment of a new political dispensation. Together with IGAD and UNPOS, we remain engaged in accompanying the process of adopting a new constitution for Somalia within the shortest possible time.

On the military front, over the past couple of weeks, Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces, supported by troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) — which now has a strength of well over 8,000 soldiers — have changed the picture on the ground in Mogadishu. The TFG forces, supported by AMISOM troops, have taken control of key positions in north-west Mogadishu, including the former Ministry of Defence building, which had served as the main logistical and operational base of Al-Shabaab. Those gains are the latest in a series of steady advances our forces have been making since the summer of last year.

I would like once again to express our condolences to the families of our brave soldiers who have paid the ultimate price during those recent operations and, in the same breath, reiterate our appreciation to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their commitment and increased deployment of troops to Somalia under AMISOM.

Following those gains, I am pleased to inform the Security Council that the TFG now effectively controls about 60 per cent of Mogadishu. The Government now fully controls seven districts of Mogadishu. Importantly, about 80 per cent of the city's population of roughly 2 million lives in the areas that have come under the control of the TFG and its Somali forces.

The humanitarian situation remains dire. It has been further exacerbated by the famine occasioned by the drought. Also, Al-Shabaab continues to act in flagrant violation of all norms of all civilized societies. They are not only targeting the TFG and AMISOM with mortars, improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks, but are also using innocent civilians as human shields, in horrific violation of humanitarian law. They are hampering the flow of humanitarian aid to the needy population and are perpetuating a siege on the population, which is now hostage to their ideology.

In spite of the gains we have recorded in Somalia, I must emphasize that the armed opposition group, Al-Shabaab, is still fighting to remove the TFG and AMISOM from Somalia so that it can continue to rain terror on the Somali people and even far beyond, as it did last year in Kampala, Uganda. The situation in Somalia poses a clear threat to international peace and security. A robust response from the international community is therefore needed.

Allow me at this juncture, therefore, to express some thoughts for the Council's consideration as it discusses a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia. These recommendations are based on the African Union's strategy, which encompasses political and security pillars.

The political pillar of the African Union strategy hinges on the need to support the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). At this juncture in the transition, the African Union believes that the TFIs require the continued support of AMISOM. That will assist them in their efforts to meet the aspirations of the population and will also facilitate the end of the current transitional arrangements and allow for a new dispensation come August.

The security pillar of the African Union strategy is a means of achieving the political goal that I have just outlined. It includes provisions for the enhancement of AMISOM troop levels and the revised concept of operations that informed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council at the end of its meeting on 15 October 2010. It requires the deployment of 20,000 troops across Somalia and 12,000 troops in Mogadishu in particular.

This is to enable the African Union to achieve three broad political and military objectives. The first objective is to improve the security environment in and around Mogadishu. The second is to create an environment conducive to increased political engagement between the TFG and Somali groups outside the peace process, including the armed opposition groups and regional and local administrations across the country, and to finalize the new constitution. The third is to create an environment conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and public services to the needy population in Mogadishu.

The political and security objectives that I have mentioned are achievable with the support of the international community and, in particular, through the Council's continued support to AMISOM. We certainly welcome the support of the Council, as detailed in its resolution 1964 (2010) of 22 December 2010. However, the African Union urgently requires the support of the Council in more ways. In specific reference to a comprehensive approach, the African Union would like to reiterate the requests made to the Council by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Lamamra, in December last year.

First, the African Union requests the Council to continue to support Somalia's Transitional Federal Institutions and its security forces, including through the provision of specialist training and equipment and initiatives to meet welfare needs.

Secondly, it requests the Council to enhance the support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations-assessed contributions, on the basis of the newly authorized strength, and arranging for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, including minor and major equipment, and the payment of troop allowances at United Nations rates so as to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission.

Thirdly, the African Union asks that the Council authorize the naval operations off the coast of Somalia to provide more direct and tangible support to AMISOM. That support could take the form of maritime deterrence and air surveillance operations to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia and of flights and shipments delivering weapons and ammunition to armed groups inside the country that are carrying out attacks on the TFG, AMISOM and the Somali population.

Fourthly, the Council is requested to ensure the effective implementation of sanctions against all those impeding the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in particular through financial, material and logistical support to groups waging attacks on the TFG, the Somali people and AMISOM.

Fifthly, the African Union asks the Council to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with the view to effectively addressing its underlying causes and other equally serious threats affecting the livelihood and well-being of the Somali people, in particular illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia.

Finally, the African Union requests the Council to enhance humanitarian aid assistance to Somalia and particularly to alleviate the current suffering of the population due to famine.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating on behalf of the African Union our appreciation to the Security Council for its untiring, resilient and courageous efforts in resolving the situation in Somalia. The African Union recognizes and appreciates fully the support of the international community to Somalia. We are now only a few months away from the end of the transition. During the coming months, more support is required. What we do and when and how we do it in addressing the situation in Somalia will be critical.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Diarra for his statement.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Bellingham (United Kingdom): I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss Somalia at such an important time. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Special Representative of the African Union (AU) Diarra and Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi-Farmaajo for their excellent contributions to this debate.

The United Kingdom Government regards Somalia as a key priority. That is why I am here today. I convey great thanks to you, Mr. President, for facilitating this debate. Listening to the debate so far, I am struck by our common desire to end 20 years of instability, which have brought conflict and humanitarian disaster to the people of Somalia and threatened the people of the region and beyond with piracy and terrorism. I am glad the Secretary-General mentioned piracy and the need for urgent action; I do believe the Jack Lang report is very welcome (S/2011/30, annex).

In recent weeks, we have seen just how challenging the situation in Somalia is. I would like to commend the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for what it is doing on our behalf and in particular on behalf of the Somali people. I join others in paying tribute to the brave soldiers of AMISOM and the professionalism and dedication they have shown in their successful actions against the corrupt and brutal tyranny of Al-Shabaab. In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for the commitment they have shown and also pass on my sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in the recent fighting. The bravery of AMISOM troops in making their territorial gains reminds us that AMISOM needs our support and guidance.

As the Secretary-General pointed out, the gains are indeed fragile. This is not solely about defeating insurgent attacks, but also about protecting civilians as best as possible, in line with international humanitarian law. The force headquarters have recently taken steps to improve AMISOM's capacity to protect civilians. We welcome this, but more is needed to ensure that AMISOM is sufficiently resourced and continues to make gains. Incidentally, I also welcome the gains that have been made in the south of the country.

I am pleased to announce that the United Kingdom will shortly make a $3-million uncaveated contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. I call on other donor countries to make similar uncaveated contributions.

It is clear that there is no simple solution to Somalia's instability. Military efforts alone are not going to bring about lasting peace. We need a political process that is legitimate and inclusive, allowing all those Somalis who oppose violence to play a positive role in their country's future. We encourage the United Nations and the AU to continue to work together to develop a coordinated political and military strategy that delivers real benefit to the Somali people.

In under six months' time, in August 2011, the transitional period is due to come to an end. We cannot allow a political vacuum to develop, but nor can we simply continue with business as usual. Recent efforts to extend the transitional period unilaterally without meaningful reform or consultation have not brought consensus. Indeed, they have served only to damage the legitimacy and credibility of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). It is troubling to me to hear about yet another reshuffle of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as this suggests that political infighting is a higher priority of the TFG than reconciliation and the delivery of services to the Somali people.

The United Kingdom believes there should be no extension of the Transitional Federal Institutions without reforms to make them more representative, legitimate and accountable to the Somali people. There needs to be broad consultation within Somalia and with the international community on what should follow the current arrangements. I was encouraged when His Excellency Prime Minister Abdullahi-Farmaajo outlined various service improvements, but these need to be built on. I therefore encourage all of us, under Special Representative Mahiga's leadership, to work more effectively, both with the TFIs and with regional and local administrations to bring about a new and more inclusive political arrangement.

The United Kingdom fully supports Augustine Mahiga in his efforts to negotiate a way forward. I am delighted that he is going to participate in and is listening to this debate.

The dire humanitarian situation in Somalia, worsened by drought, underlines the need for concerted action to ensure a more stable future for the Somali people. I commend the United Nations Humanitarian Relief Coordinator's work and encourage greater support for United Nations and bilateral humanitarian efforts in Somalia.

The year 2011 marks 20 years since the collapse of the Somali State. For many Somalis, the situation remains desperate, and many have been forced to flee their homes and families. A generation of Somali children has grown up without knowing peace, without going to school, without the simplest opportunities that many of us just take for granted.

But there are encouraging signs. At the local level, Somalis are working together to establish areas of stability and to reject acts of extremism, terrorism and piracy. We have an opportunity to help Somalis build on these initiatives. I believe that Somalia is literally at a crossroads. If recent military and political progress is maintained and the counter-piracy initiatives succeed — and I believe they can — then the future is bright. The alternative scenario is incredible depressing and grim. We must prevent it. That will require us to work together. I believe that we all have a responsibility to act and the United Kingdom will play its part.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, Sir, my delegation would like to welcome your initiative to hold a debate on the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Boubacar Diarra for their briefings. I welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abulllahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of Somalia, and of Mr. Henry Bellingham.

On 20 August, we will see the end of the transition period in Somalia. Despite the efforts of the international community to restore peace in that country, many challenges remain. Given the picture of the situation that has been painted for us today, my delegation believes that a comprehensive strategy in Somalia that incorporates the political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian aspects would be the most effective way to settle the crisis in the country definitively.

We share the concerns raised with regard to the political situation in Somalia. The Transitional Federal Government needs to further expand its political base, and we take note of the efforts highlighted by the

Prime Minister. The reconciliation process needs to take deeper root. The new constitution remains a priority. The slow progress in these areas fuels the prevailing uncertainty, which requires the authorities to show greater political will and commitment.

Gabon shares the wish to see more effective action on the ground on the part of the Government. Its primary goal should be to finalize the constitutional process, which is key for the completion of the political process. It is equally urgent to complete the other tasks of the transition, particularly providing basic services to the people of Somalia, who continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. I believe that it is also a priority for the Transitional Federal Government to strengthen cohesion within the institutions under its authority. We believe that the unilateral decision recently taken by the Parliament to extend its mandate for three years may be a departure from this notion.

It is from the standpoint that my delegation calls on all parties to conclude as soon as possible the post-transition arrangements in accordance with the Djibouti Agreement, to which Gabon remains committed. To that end, my country supports a compromise solution that would guarantee the legitimacy of the political arrangements in place and control over the Somali forces that are being trained.

Moving the peace process forward in Somalia requires strengthening both the political and the military strategy in order to first improve the security situation on the ground. In that respect, my delegation pays a well-deserved tribute to the troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their tireless efforts to ensure security, as seen in the meaningful improvements in the situation in Mogadishu. In this regard, my delegation expresses its solidarity to Uganda and Burundi for the sacrifices they continue to make to restore peace and stability in Somalia.

AMISOM is still facing many challenges on the ground. Rebel movements, including Al-Shabaab, continue to pose a real threat. That is why it is urgent for the international community to put an end to the illicit financing of these groups and of the supplies of men and weapons that they receive at the borders. We therefore need to strengthen the current sanctions mechanisms of the Council by focusing on targeted measures.

Similarly, it is increasingly necessary to increase the operational capacities of AMISOM. For this, the Security Council needs to do its utmost to follow up the recommendations contained in resolution 1964 (2010), particularly with respect to the dispatch of 4,000 additional troops. It also needs to ensure the effectiveness of both their deployment and their financing. This measure will be key with respect to the precarious situation on the ground. We also need to recall that the lack of predictable financing for AMISOM and the failure to reimburse the sums due for its equipment restrict its ability to fulfil its mandate.

In this respect, my delegation highlights the need to take into account the recommendations made here in October 2010 by the African Union, aimed at making AMISOM more effective on the ground. It would also be appropriate for donor countries to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund set up to support the operations of AMISOM.

The humanitarian situation is deteriorating in Somalia. Without robust action by the international community, drought and fighting will continue to cause further loss of human life. My delegation therefore urges greater mobilization by Somalia's partners to provide the necessary assistance to the people who need it. In this process, the Council must be able to ensure compliance by the parties with international humanitarian law, specifically the obligation to protect civilians, the non-use of minors in fighting and the free movement of humanitarian assistance.

One cannot address the situation in Somalia without taking up the serious threat of piracy. We share the evaluations and conclusions of the Jack Lang report (S/2011/30, annex) on this issue. I recall that my delegation has always underscored the need to address piracy in tandem with the security threats on land in the country. This is why we support the initiative for a comprehensive strategy.

From this same standpoint, we commend the adoption by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, together with AMISOM, of a regional joint strategy. The interdependent nature of the challenges to be met in terms of political, security and humanitarian issues justify this comprehensive strategy, which we all support.

My delegation supports the presidential statement to be adopted by the Security Council at the conclusion of this debate.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I thank the Chinese presidency for convening today's meeting. Germany is also very grateful for the clear and informed remarks of the Secretary-General. I am particularly gratified by the presence of Prime Minister Abdullahi Mohamed and the Special Representative for Somalia of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Diarra, as well as, via videolink, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, our friend Augustine Mahiga, from Mogadishu. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Bellingham, Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom.

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the delegation of the European Union later on.

The Security Council has a unique responsibility in addressing the momentous challenges in Somalia. Germany strongly advocates for continued and focused work by the Council on Somalia, in close cooperation with regional actors and especially our partners in the African Union.

The conflict in Somalia has lasted far too long. It has attracted international terrorist activities and provided the breeding ground for piracy. It threatens international peace and security. But above all, its human cost is unacceptable. This human cost reminds us of our humanitarian responsibilities, especially with respect to vulnerable groups such as refugees, women and children. They continue to bear the brunt of the violence. We are concerned by the severely limited humanitarian space. We call upon all parties in the country to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian aid as well as the safety of all humanitarian staff. We also call for the immediate implementation of all the conclusions of the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia.

Five months before the end of the transitional period, it is urgent to promote a clear political strategy for mastering the remaining transitional tasks. All of us — the Security Council, the actors in Somalia, neighbouring countries and all other stakeholders — must continue to join efforts to achieve tangible progress.

Germany reiterates her full support to the Djibouti process. The Somali Government now needs to focus on the completion of the constitution-making process, outreach to armed opposition groups through dialogue wherever possible and sensible, and the provision of security and basic services to the Somali people. The Transitional Federal Institutions must stop their political infighting. They are responsible to their people. They must refrain from unilateral actions, such as the recent extension of its term by the Transitional Federal Parliament.

The international community has to pursue its support to the Somali people and Somali institutions, in particular the security institutions, in order to work towards the stabilization of Somalia. Wherever possible, we should explore ways to extend our support to those regions of Somalia enjoying relative stability and security, including Somaliland and Puntland. We should also urge better cooperation between such regions and the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu. We also see the need to engage with local administrations, communities and civil society as a whole. We feel that their traditions and experiences can add significantly to the political process on the ground. In the longer perspective, extended cooperation between all actors could enhance opportunities for economic and social development beyond those regions, for the betterment of all Somalia.

Piracy originating from Somalia needs to be tackled in a comprehensive way. The United Nations and all other international actors have to pursue their common efforts in this regard. Germany will continue to actively take part in this endeavour.

Let me turn to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We reiterate our full support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and its troop contributors, and are looking forward to its full deployment in the near future, in accordance with resolution 1964 (2010). Germany and the European Union are extensively assisting AMISOM and troop-contributing countries. Germany recently delivered substantial equipment aid to Burundian AMISOM contingents worth well over $5 million. We invite other donors to join our common effort and support AMISOM.

Germany is impressed by the professional and successful work carried out by AMISOM and its troop contributors in fulfilling its daunting task. We thank them for their dedication and are encouraged by the recent progress made on the ground, in Mogadishu and beyond. We are very saddened by the recent casualties among AMISOM soldiers.

My last point concerns the future of a United Nations presence in Somalia. Germany encourages the United Nations to strive to strengthen its presence in Somalia and especially in Mogadishu, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his most recent report. We welcome the recent efforts of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the United Nations country team in this respect. An enhanced United Nations presence on the ground can contribute to a more direct engagement with the various communities and thus to a political solution in Somalia.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like to thank China for having convened this debate on Somalia, which will launch a process of reflection on ways of stabilizing the country and achieving peace as the expiration of the mandate of the transitional federal institutions approaches. I should like also to thank Mr. Mahiga and Mr. Diarra as well as the Prime Minister of Somalia for their respective contributions. I also align myself with the statement to be made later by the European Union.

The Transitional Government, allied factions and militias and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have launched an offensive against the Al-Shabaab rebels. We welcome the efforts deployed and the sacrifices made by the contingents involved and the success achieved on the ground in Mogadishu and in southern Somalia. The Ugandan and Burundian forces are bravely carrying out their mission within AMISOM and have paid a heavy price in recent weeks. France, for its part, has taken on the transportation and care of a number of wounded AMISOM soldiers.

That offensive will contribute to weakening the extremists and ensuring security in a large part of Somali territory and of the capital. However, this military approach cannot be a solution in and of itself; it must be part of a broader political strategy. From this perspective, we cannot but acknowledge that the progress made has been insufficient.

The transitional federal institutions have fuelled counter-productive institutional rivalries. They have not been able to increase their representativeness, nor have they managed to provide the people with the minimum level of services they require. We must, however, welcome the first initiatives of the new Government. A budget has been submitted to the Parliament, security for civilians has been set as a priority objective, the fight against corruption has been strengthened, and civil servants are now being paid. This represents important progress that must be acknowledged and strengthened.

We need a new political strategy for Somalia. What must its priorities be? First, a renewal of the institutional framework, as the State cannot continue to have transitional status. In order to prevent the absence of an institutional framework in August, the Somali authorities must undertake the finalization and adoption of a constitution. The transitional federal institutions, in particular the Parliament, must be reformed in order for all stakeholders of Somali society to be represented, in keeping with the Djibouti Agreement and on the basis of the most inclusive dialogue possible with all parties, including the provincial administrations, representatives of civil society and those militias that are willing to renounce violence.

Along those lines, we deplore the unilateral decision taken by the transitional Parliament to extend its own mandate. We commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, for the work undertaken in the area of consultations and encourage him to revitalize the mechanisms for agreement set out in the Djibouti Agreement. A dialogue with the regions — Puntland in particular — and with allied groups, including Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, must be relaunched.

The second priority must be security and the provision of basic services for the Somali population. The Somali authorities must assign priority importance to working to benefit the people. Support for the transitional institutions must translate into tangible achievements on the part of the Somali people.

How can these objectives be attained? First, the role of the United Nations will be key. A strengthened, permanent and coherent presence of the United Nations will be required in Mogadishu. We call upon the United Nations agencies and programmes to deploy urgently their resources in the service of the people and the accessible territories. The work of the United Nations must take the form of concrete achievements that will benefit the Somali people; much remains to be done in this respect.

We are also aware of the lack of resources of the Somali Government. The financial support of the international community, as called for by the Prime Minister, reflects a practical need in a political context and must be forthcoming. Finally, to seal the partnership between the Somali institutions and the international community, a new, joint road map focused on the respective objectives of the Somali institutions and the United Nations, including a timetable, could be created. Such a tool would allow for the creation of a coherent, agreed-upon strategic framework for the post-transitional period. Regular follow-up would be essential. Support by the international community for Somali institutions must be commensurate with the concrete results obtained.

I should like to conclude by addressing the issue of piracy. The report submitted by Mr. Lang (S/2010/30, annex) has recalled the urgency of finding solutions with respect to the judicial and penal treatment of pirates. Given what is at stake for the international community and for the region, we welcome the intention of the Russian Federation to submit, in the near future, a draft resolution to the Security Council aimed at the implementation of the proposals made in the report seeking to place Somalia at the centre of a mechanism aimed at combating impunity.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Security Council of the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and we listened carefully to his assessment. The complex military and political situation and the humanitarian situation in Somalia give greater urgency to the task of crafting a coordinated international strategy for a settlement. The lead role in this process is to be played by the Somali transitional federal institutions.

The priority task now is to ensure security in Somalia. A radical military and political breakthrough must be achieved. In particular, there is a need for the further consolidation and enhancement of the country's defence and security structures. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continues to be a key stabilizing factor in Somalia. We express our gratitude to the Governments of Burundi and of Uganda, as their units form the backbone of the Mission.

Predictable and timely support for African Union peacekeepers must be provided by both donors and the United Nations. We advocate quickly increasing the size of the Mission to the level planned for in resolution 1964 (2010).

Strengthening the military contingent of AMISOM and the security sector of the Transitional Federal Government is aimed above all at protecting civilians and dismantling the military capacity of Al-Shabaab as the primary factor of destruction in Somalia. We must therefore close the external channels providing support for the armed Somali faction. The Security Council must continue to focus on the task of ensuring effective sanctions regimes that include targeted sanctions and that should be imposed on the basis of objective, vetted information.

The achievement of a peace settlement in Somalia will depend largely on the Somali people themselves. The Transitional Federal Government and the Parliament must strengthen their social bases, including by ensuring that the population has social and economic services, and also by restoring contacts with the constructive opposition and broad public participation in discussing the nation's future constitution and the parameters for the country's development after the transition period.

We support the process of phased expansion of the United Nations presence in Somalia and measures to improve coordination of its activities. We commend the efforts of Special Representative Mahiga, and in this context it is important to continue to take into account the security conditions under which United Nations staff members work.

The ongoing difficult humanitarian situation in Somalia and the meagre financing of assistance programmes are also matters of concern. We welcome the efforts of humanitarian organizations working under very difficult military and political conditions.

The problem of piracy continues to worsen. People perish at the hands of pirates, and the current counter-piracy measures do not keep up with developments. The Security Council needs to take urgent and decisive steps to stem further deterioration of the situation. The Russian delegation intends shortly to submit the draft of a new resolution on piracy, aimed at a comprehensive solution to this problem, including the very important issue of fighting impunity. We anticipate the support of the Council members for our initiative.

With the leadership of Somalia and international and regional partners, Russia will continue to work towards achieving a stable peace in the country based on the Djibouti Agreement and in the interest of strengthening stability and security in the region.

Mr. Dunn (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this very important open debate and for seeking to bring a comprehensive perspective to the situation in Somalia. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his informative briefing. I would also like to thank Prime Minister Mohamed of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) for his remarks and Special Representatives Mahiga and Diarra for their participation today.

On behalf of the United States, let me express my deepest condolences for those killed and wounded in the recent fighting in Somalia against Al-Shabaab and its allies. In the current offensive, peacekeepers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali national security forces have shown professionalism, dedication and courage. We owe them our gratitude. I commend the resolve and commitment of the troop-contributing Governments of Burundi and Uganda. The international community needs to do more to support the troop, equipment and resource needs of AMISOM.

The situation in Somalia, as we have heard this morning, remains alarming. The Somali population face a dire humanitarian situation. We are gravely concerned about the approximately 2.4 million Somalis in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, most of them living in areas held by Al-Shabaab — areas where humanitarian space is shrinking. More than a year ago the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to suspend its programmes in Shabaab-held territory due to threats and demands against its staff. Al-Shabaab has expelled several non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

The inability to deliver humanitarian assistance under deteriorating conditions has meant that significantly more Somalis are seeking refuge and aid in neighbouring countries. My Government commends the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the WFP, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and others as they continue to provide services under difficult conditions to the internally displaced and to Somali refugees in Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen and Ethiopia, whose Governments we thank for their hospitality.

We are deeply concerned by the continued threats to peace and security posed by radical extremists, criminals and other spoilers in Somalia. Instability and lack of economic opportunity continue to fuel piracy off the coast of Somalia, which threatens not only the Somali people and seafarers but the stability of the region as a whole. Piracy off the coast of Somalia is seriously hindering the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to the region, international trade through the Indian Ocean and the welfare of seafarers passing through the waters off the coast. Last month, as has been noted, four Americans tragically lost their lives while being held hostage by Somali pirates.

The level of violence being used by pirates is escalating and their range of operations is broadening. Those are troubling trends, and the international community, including this Council, must do more to address this flatly unacceptable situation not only by stepping up prevention efforts and enhancing judicial accountability, but also by going after those who finance, plan and organize piracy activities. In this regard, the United States recently hosted an ad hoc meeting of interested members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to further explore what the international community can do to go after those who unlawfully profit from those despicable activities. We strongly urge the international community to support those efforts.

The United States commends the efforts of the twenty countries, including many members of this Council, that have built a multinational naval patrol to conduct counter-piracy operations and safeguard vessels. Additionally, while we consider options to ensure that pirates face judicial consequences, we hope that the international community will continue to support and enhance prosecution-related programmes already under way. We welcome the contributions made by the United Nations and the Contact Group. We hope that the international community, including the Security Council, will work to ensure that the various initiatives that are being proposed complement each other.

As we move forward, incarceration capacity should be a key focus of both this Council and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. As the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues, Jack Lang, made clear in his comprehensive report to the Council (S/2011/30, annex), this will still be an issue no matter which prosecution mechanism we pursue.

The obstacles to a stable Somalia cannot be underestimated. Under the dual-track approach, the United States continues to support the Djibouti peace process and the Transitional Federal Government even as we support other local and regional entities in Somalia that seek peace, reject terrorism and are willing to work with the TFG. We are increasingly concerned about the incessant political infighting and the lack of progress on governance reform, basic services for the Somali people and a functional political coalition that can govern and stabilize Somalia at large.

We expect the TFG to take advantage of advances by AMISOM to make progress towards achieving its transitional tasks and expanding outreach throughout Somalia, a critical objective in our view. We also call on the TFG to immediately take steps to improve its financial institutions and procedures. We are looking for greater accounting of assistance funds provided by the international community and from revenue sources such as the port of Mogadishu. In this regard, the United States has provided financial advisers to the Ministry of Finance to assist with revenue accountability. We call for the TFG to substantively improve its governance and security efforts and to provide a sustained demonstration of commitment towards that end.

Finally, the United States does not support the unilateral three-year extension of the Transitional Federal Parliament. Similarly, we oppose any assertion that the current TFG should simply be extended past August 2011, absent a clear Somali road map for how the TFG would make the transition into a representative Government within a defined time frame.

For credible progress to be made, we believe that the TFG and Parliament must enter into serious discussions with regional partners, Special Representative Mahiga and key supporters in the international community to identify a sensible, realistic way forward. I would especially like to note our appreciation for Special Representative Mahiga's continued work and leadership in this regard. The outcome of this process must advance the goal of building a comprehensive political solution and a strategy for reconciliation and lasting peace.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): The political, humanitarian and security situation in Somalia continues to pose a major threat not just to peace and development in Somalia but also to regional peace and global security. The international community has thus far been dealing with the situation in Somalia in a piecemeal manner. We therefore welcome the initiative of the Chinese presidency to convene this timely debate to discuss a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia.

We thank His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of Somalia, the Secretary-General and Ambassador Diarra of the African Union for their statements. We also thank His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham for his message today, and we appreciate the participation of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ambassador Mahiga through video link.

The end of the transition period, on 20 August, is fast approaching. It is critical that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), with the assistance of the international community, redouble its efforts in completing the remaining transitional tasks. This would require the full implementation of the Djibouti peace process and the road map for the implementation of the remaining transition tasks announced by Prime Minister Mohamed. All efforts should be geared towards the completion of the constitution-building process, outreach to those outside the Djibouti process and political reconciliation. This would also require unity of purpose among the Somali political leadership as they address these daunting challenges. National ownership over Somalia's future dispensation remains critical for ensuring the sustainability of these processes.

My delegation welcomes and fully supports the efforts of Special Representative Mahiga in engaging key stakeholders during the remainder of the transitional period and on post-transitional arrangements. We encourage the Special Representative to engage in broad political consultations with all stakeholders in Somalia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union. The inclusivity of the future dispensation in Somalia remains critical for ensuring the sustainability of these processes. In that regard, rapprochement must be extended to all Somalis who wish to contribute towards a political solution in Somalia. Somaliland, Puntland and other local entities also have an important role to play in the political process in Somalia.

South Africa welcomes the recent adoption of the joint regional strategy by the United Nations and IGAD. This strategy seeks to promote a common approach to political, security and humanitarian challenges, as well as to deal with institutional and financial challenges affecting the Somali peace process and the management of the TFG's transition. We believe that this will give further impetus to galvanizing efforts by key stakeholders in managing the transition.

We are convinced that the success of the Transitional Federal Government depends on its ability to deliver political and socio-economic dividends and provide security for its people. Recent events elsewhere clearly show that human security is key to stability and sustainable development in the long run. Efforts at the political level must therefore be complemented with the delivery of basic services to the people of Somalia. We call on the international community to provide all of the necessary support to the TFG in that regard. This will not only enhance the credibility and legitimacy of the TFG but also address the plight of Somali citizens.

South Africa is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia, where it is reported that hundreds of civilians are killed and thousands of casualties are admitted to hospital on a monthly basis, with the number of internally displaced people alarmingly high. We encourage the international community to contribute to the 2011 Somalia humanitarian appeal, amounting to $529 million, to alleviate this human suffering.

The efforts of the TFG and the international community will be in vain if a conducive security environment is not guaranteed in order to allow the Government to focus on critical governance and institution-building tasks in the remaining period leading to the end of the transitional period.

Despite successes of Government forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), we regret the loss of the lives of the dozens of troops killed around Mogadishu and its environs. Given the severity of the security situation in Somalia, it is vital that AMISOM be strengthened and supported to a level commensurate with the severe challenges on the ground. That should include the provision of funding through assessed contributions for the payment of troop allowances and reimbursement for contingency-owned equipment, as well as the provision of air capabilities and enablers to enhance the effectiveness of AMISOM. South Africa welcomes the ongoing support provided by bilateral partners to the Trust Fund for AMISOM. We encourage partners to provide that support without caveats.

A comprehensive strategy for Somalia should take cognizance of the fact that bolstering AMISOM is not an end in itself. AMISOM is undertaking the important task of supporting the Government, but we must do more than just keep the Government alive. The long-term strategy must contribute to building Government institutions to enable them to survive on their own. Key in the fight against the armed opposition will be the strengthening of Somalia's own security institutions. A strong and effective Somali Security Force will enable the Government to extend its area of control and provide a safe environment for facilitating an expanded United Nations presence in Mogadishu.

With regard to piracy off the coast of Somalia, my delegation supports the ongoing efforts to address this challenge. We are of the view that addressing the scourge of piracy would require a holistic approach that addresses the underlying causes of the problem, promotes economic opportunities and addresses the political and security dimension of piracy. Developing coastal income-generating activities and the fishing industry, as well as investigations into illegal fishing and toxic dumping allegations, should assist in reversing the growing trend of piracy. We remain convinced that piracy is but a symptom of the insecurity challenges faced on land. For that challenge to be addressed comprehensively, increased attention to the insecurity on land must be prioritized.

The months ahead provide the TFG and the international community a window of opportunity to ensure that the people of Somalia are afforded the peace and security that has escaped them for too long. My delegation believes that renewed vigour on the part of Somalis and the international community is required to bring them closer to realizing that goal. The Security Council, on its part, should continue regularized and focused attention on all issues pertaining to Somalia, in line with their comprehensive strategy on dealing with the issues facing Somalia.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I would like to place on record our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate, which is very timely and gives us an opportunity to discuss the situation in Somalia comprehensively. I would also like in particular to thank the Secretary-General for setting the coordinates and tone for our discussion today. Our thanks also go to Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

The Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, deserves our special appreciation for his comprehensive outline of the achievements of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) thus far, as well as its plans for the immediate future. I draw inspiration in particular from the Prime Minister's expressed determination to regain his land, his identity and his dignity from the extremists. I would like to assure the Prime Minister of India's continued commitment to supporting every meaningful effort aimed at furthering peace, reconstruction and institution-building in Somalia.

In keeping with discussions held earlier this week in Mogadishu by our Ambassador, including with the Prime Minister, we will examine ways of intensifying our cooperation aimed at building capacity in the various areas identified by the Prime Minister in dealing with the scourge of piracy.

India and Somalia are linked by two millenniums of shared history and culture. We are neighbours across the sea. In recent times, Mogadishu, Kismayo and other Somali cities have had thriving Indian communities. Even today, India is home to many Somalis. Indian teachers are fondly remembered by many Somalis. In recent times, as Somalia fell into difficult circumstances, India contributed significant numbers of peacekeepers and naval and air assets to the Unified Task Force and to the United Nations Operation in Somalia II. The work of Indian medical units among the civilian population is still recalled. We also remain active in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, while continuing existing measures to protect our seafarers and maritime commerce.

The peace and security issues confronting Somalia, as well as the immediate and greater region, are matters that concern us all. I join in commending the TFG forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their recent successes. I also take note of the Secretary-General's assessment that that effort is currently fragile and needs to be supported, and we have every intention of doing so.

We extend our sincere condolences on the sacrifices that have been made. We have had reports of the trying circumstances in which the various contingents operate. We also wish to record our appreciation for the good work being done by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. The Council should examine the recommendations made by the African Union and others for supporting AMISOM and Somalia and its people.

However, international efforts to re-establish security in Somalia will not be successful so long as Al-Shabaab continues to generate internal resources for its activities. We would therefore like to see TFG forces control Kismayo port so that port earnings are not misappropriated by Al-Shabaab. Simultaneously, all stakeholders should undertake serious efforts to cut off arms supplies to Al-Shabaab.

It is important to break any nexus between domestic destabilizing forces and external support agencies that is intended to introduce outside combatants or arms and ammunition. That requires effective monitoring of existing sanctions and a common commitment to honour them.

The drought in Somalia and in neighbouring countries has assumed alarming proportions in lands that even in normal times are not adequately blessed with water resources. We would be prepared to work with the TFG to assist the Somali people in this regard.

One of the unfortunate outcomes of the larger and ongoing tragedy in Somalia is piracy. It has not only had a destabilizing effect on global and regional trade and security, but has also brought about much suffering to seafarers and their families. The recent killing of four United States citizens by the pirates is only an example, and we strongly condemn that.

As I mentioned in the Council's debate on 25 January 2011 (see S/PV.6473), Somali pirates are operating further and further from the Somali coast. Recent incidents of piracy have taken place about 250 nautical miles away from the Indian coast. The shift of attacks to the south and east of the Indian Ocean reflects the pirates' ability to adapt to bypass the security corridor established by naval forces and to extend their reach to approximately 1,000 to 1,200 miles from Somali Coast. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard have stepped up their vigil against pirates in India's exclusive economic zone. They have recently neutralized two mother ships being used by the pirates.

The issue of sailors taken hostage by pirates and their plight is one that the Security Council has not addressed. My delegation feels that the ways and means to address this issue require the most urgent and serious consideration of the United Nations.

The International Maritime Bureau reported that in 2010 alone, 1,016 sailors of all nationalities were taken hostage by Somali pirates, and 638 of them remain hostages. It is a matter of serious concern for us that 53 Indian nationals aboard the hijacked ships are being held captive by pirates. The hostages are generally from working-class backgrounds and are often the only bread-winners of their families. The primary responsibility for the release of hostages lies with the owners of the ships concerned. In many cases it has been observed, regrettably, that those ship owners do not take responsibility or display adequate interest in securing the release of the sailors in their employ. In many circumstances sailors must endure very harsh conditions under captivity and are often tortured by their captors.

My delegation views this issue with the greatest concern. Democracies in particular are sensitive to public opinion and are impacted by a public sense of need to act on the adverse situations faced by their citizens. There has to be more effective action that the international community can collectively take. I was encouraged by the remarks of my Russian colleague and look forward to receiving details of his initiative on piracy and to being able to support it.

India has been fully engaged in the efforts of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, and we will continue to work with other countries. The Indian Navy has been undertaking anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008.

We will work with Somali authorities and support the work of the African Union and this Council in a constructive manner. We are happy that even through trying times, bilateral cooperation programmes such as the Pan-African e-Network are being successfully implemented in Somalia. We look forward also to a visit by the Deputy Prime Minister for Planning and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Abdiweli Ali. We will remain engaged with Somalia.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, I wish to thank His Excellency the Secretary-General for his briefing and to warmly welcome Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of Somalia, and Mr. Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, and to express our gratitude to them. Additionally, I would like to warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham, Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom.

Let me underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union to be delivered later this morning. I shall now highlight a few additional points.

I wish to begin our statement by congratulating the Chinese presidency for organizing this important and timely debate on Somalia as the end of the transitional period approaches.

Bosnia and Herzegovina shares the opinion of the other delegations that the peace process is at a critical juncture and that it is of crucial importance to adopt a comprehensive strategy for peace and stability in Somalia. We reiterate our full support to the Transitional Federal Government, having in mind that the Djibouti peace process remains the only viable framework for conciliation, confidence-building and long-term stability in the country. We urge all parties outside the Djibouti peace process to join in and work together in the interest of the Somali people. In that regard we wish to stress the importance of national ownership of the transition process in Somalia. We call on all stakeholders in Somalia to do their utmost, through unity and full commitment, to implement the commitments undertaken without delay and share the successful completion of the transition period.

We consider it highly important that the Transitional Federal Institutions refrain from any unilateral actions so as not to have negative impacts on the overall political, security and humanitarian situation. Furthermore, we call on the Transitional Federal Institutions to redouble their efforts in the area of national reconciliation, completing the constitution, capacity-building, building up national security forces and expanding the political space in the country through inclusive dialogue.

Another important aspect in insuring peace and stability throughout Somalia is strengthening State institutions in order to ensure delivery of basic services to the people. To reach that goal it is important that the international community make additional efforts and provide the necessary support to the Transitional Federal Institutions, including through training and equipping the Somali security forces.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains deeply concerned about the security situation in Somalia. We condemn all terrorist activities and attacks in the country, especially those aimed at the civilian population. We are gravely concerned at the reports of violations of the human rights of women and children and of the recruitment of children by parties to the conflict, including recruitment by pirates.

One of the main reasons for the recruitment of youth and children by pirates and insurgents is lack of financial security. Therefore, socio-economic recovery should be one of the priorities of the Transitional Federal Institutions and the international community. Furthermore, we urge the Transitional Federal Government to do its utmost to end the culture of impunity through genuine efforts to establish the rule of law.

The role of the African Union Mission to Somalia is significant in assisting and protecting the Transitional Federal Government and maintaining security in Mogadishu. In that regard we pay homage to the troop-contributing countries — Burundi and Uganda — for their dedication and commitment. We commend the troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and appreciate the efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

We are encouraged by reports of some territorial gains in Mogadishu by the Transitional Federal Government's forces. We are of the view that the recent endorsement by the Security Council of the proposal by the African Union to increase the AMISOM troop level up to 12,000, as well as the requisite logistical support package for AMISOM, will have a positive impact on expanding the security and political space in the country. We call upon the international community to provide additional support for AMISOM to reach its mandated strength and for it to have the necessary capabilities to fulfil its mission.

We express our deep concern regarding the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, where reportedly around 2.3 million people still depend on humanitarian aid. The obstruction of the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia is another issue of major concern. A serious decline in the provision of humanitarian aid has been evident. We thus appeal to the international community to address the humanitarian situation and provide indispensable assistance.

On piracy, we share the view that there is a great urgency in establishing effective counter-piracy measures before a spillover effect produces further instability in the region. The phenomenon of piracy is one of the challenges that still awaits an adequate and effective response from the international community, although some security, judiciary, prevention best practices and awareness-raising measures have been taken.

We should continue to concentrate and cooperate on the elimination of the root causes of piracy. In that regard, we welcome the proposal of the Secretary-General on possible options to further the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, as well as the proposal of Mr. Jack Lang, Special Adviser on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Finally, Bosnia and Herzegovina commends the Secretary-General and Mr. Augustine Mahiga, his Special Representative for Somalia, for their hard work, dedication and ongoing efforts aimed at securing a better future for the people of Somalia.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to extend our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your timely initiative in convening this debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his important statement.

Our appreciation also goes to the Prime Minister of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, for his presence and for his remarks to the Council.

May I also express our recognition for the work of the African Union in Somalia, as presented by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Mr. Boubacar Diarra. We are also pleased that Special Representative

Augustine Mahiga is able to join us today through video link.

As the second decade of the conflict in Somalia comes to a close, one realizes with sadness that the goal of achieving peace and security for the country has so far eluded us, in spite of the efforts carried out by the Somali people with the support of the international community. Continued instability in Somalia has effects that are devastating for its population and reach far beyond its borders. The time has come to review our collective approach and design a strategy that takes into account the multiple dimensions of the situation.

A strategy that leads to a lasting solution is one that will consider how best to combine efforts to generate security and stability, promote political reconciliation and support reconstruction, economic revitalization and capacity-building Peace and development must go hand in hand in Somalia. The India, Brazil and South Africa ministerial declaration issued on 8 March reiterates our readiness to support international efforts aimed at reconciliation, reconstruction and development in Somalia.

Recent progress, such as the appointment of a new Government with a professional Cabinet and the improvement of the security situation in certain areas controlled by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), are important and should be commended. The challenges, however, remain daunting. Efforts must continue to be made to consolidate security gains. The deployment of the additional 4,000 troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as authorized by the Security Council, should be implemented as swiftly as possible.

We commend the African countries that have contributed troops to AMISOM, in particular Burundi and Uganda, and extend our condolences for the sacrifices made. In order to be more effective, AMISOM must be given adequate conditions for its operation, including through strengthened United Nations support. The same goes for the Somali Security Forces in order to address the problems of retention and integration of personnel, under a unified chain of command.

The security challenges in Somalia have severely hindered humanitarian assistance. As we have learned from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, drought has affected almost 2.5 million people and caused alarming levels of malnutrition and massive migration. There is a need to step up humanitarian funding and create conditions for secure aid delivery.

The situation in Somalia is also deeply affected by the growing scourge of piracy. The recent killing of hostages and new reports of kidnappings seem to confirm the worst predictions regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia. The report (S/2011/30, annex) of Special Adviser Jack Lang contains important recommendations. The Security Council must react to them in a timely manner. Again, a comprehensive strategy is required so as to combine repressive and punitive measures with preventive ones, through initiatives on land that can help mitigate the problems at sea.

The efforts of the Transitional Federal Government towards stability and institution-building deserve our support. As the Council set out in its latest resolution regarding Somalia (resolution 1964 (2010)), significant progress by the TFG on the remaining transitional tasks, in particular the constitution-making process and the delivery of basic services to the population, is essential to the recovery efforts in Somalia.

We note that the decision of the Transitional Federal Parliament to unilaterally extend its mandate has raised strong reaction and may not be conducive to a lasting political solution to the situation in Somalia. An inclusive dialogue among all Somalis and key stakeholders may pave the way for progress towards stability. Transitional authorities must demonstrate their statesmanship for the success of this crucial endeavour.

As we approach August, a clear strategy for the post-transitional period needs to be devised. It will require a solid and encompassing political settlement enshrined in a new constitution and significant improvement in the security situation. These steps will help to establish a virtuous cycle in which stability can take hold.

Today's debate and the draft presidential statement before us signal the Security Council's commitment to a process that can lead to a peaceful and stable Somalia.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your initiative to convene this meeting. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Secretary-General for his preliminary observations, as well as to welcome the participation of the Prime Minister of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. I thank him for his invaluable statement. We would also like to draw attention to the statement made by Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia.

In a country where nearly a third of the population needs humanitarian assistance because of war, displacement, drought and the like, focusing only on a military solution and on fighting a rebellion will lead to no sustainable results. Somalia needs an inclusive strategic solution that goes beyond the security situation to buttressing Somali institutions and economic development.

We reiterate our support for the Djibouti peace process, in particular as it is currently the sole political track to save Somalia. We call for reactivating and energizing that process. Lebanon welcomes the Somali Government's development of a political road map. We hope that the Government will continue to carry out the remaining transitional tasks, implement reconciliation initiatives, reach out to opposition groups through dialogue and finalize the draft constitution with the participation of all parties. In that connection, we express our regret that the Transitional Federal Parliament had to extend its mandate without accomplishing the requisite reforms.

With regard to security, we condemn the attacks undertaken by anti-Government militias and at the same time stress the need for all parties to ensure the protection of civilians. We also emphasize the need to lend expeditious support to the regular forces of Somalia in order to allow the Government to extend its authority. We welcome the fact that the TFG and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have made significant gains in Mogadishu. At the same time, we express our concern over the fragility of the security situation in southern and central Somalia, which impedes most humanitarian activities.

Piracy and armed robbery constitute a threat to international commercial navigation and impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We endorse the African Union's call on the Security Council on 15 October 2010 to approach the issue of piracy in a comprehensive manner in order to address its underlying causes and other threats adversely affecting the livelihoods of Somalis, particularly illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic wastes off the shores of Somalia.

With respect to the humanitarian situation, we express our deep concern over the apparent recruitment of child soldiers and reports of the coercive evacuation of internally displaced persons and of threats to humanitarian workers and assistance. In that regard, we stress the need for humanitarian workers to reach out to all Somali parties with a view to providing humanitarian assistance to all those who need it, particularly those who need it most and who reside in areas under rebel control.

In the absence of an international peace force, Lebanon agrees with the Secretary-General that the elements of support for AMISOM should conform with support given to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we call on the Security Council to enhance its support, including through the possible funding of AMISOM through assessed contributions. We call on donors to increase their reimbursements of AMISOM through unconditional contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund. We support the expeditious deployment of a United Nations presence in Somalia with a view to sending a message of support from the Security Council for the Djibouti peace process.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Amieyeofori (Nigeria): Allow me to convey Nigeria's appreciation to the Chinese delegation for convening this important and timely meeting on Somalia.

I warmly welcome Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to the Council and thank him for sharing his Government's strategic vision with us. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his insightful remarks and tireless efforts to promote peace in Somalia. I also wish to thank Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative for Somalia of the Commission of the African Union, for his incisive assessment of the situation in Somalia.

Nigeria is encouraged by the priorities that Prime Minister Mohamed has outlined to move Somalia beyond its security, political and socio-economic challenges. With the official transition mandates set to terminate in August, Somalia is now at a critical juncture. We should therefore work towards achieving a consensus on the remaining transition tasks agreed under the Djibouti Agreement with a view to cementing recent gains in the post-transition period. Nigeria believes that the full implementation of the transitional tasks — especially stabilizing Somalia, delivering a new constitution and undertaking political reconciliation — will lay a solid foundation for a peaceful post-transition era in Somalia.

However, these goals can be realized only through concerted international support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The appointment of the 18-member Cabinet by the Prime Minister was a positive step. The Government should be strengthened to become more effective, accountable and responsive to the needs of the people of Somalia. On its part, the TFG must prioritize forging political alliances and achieving wider reconciliation. It should also demonstrate a willingness to work closely with local institutions in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter of the Somali Republic. In addition, it should enhance its relationship with both Puntland and Somaliland, and do all it can to maintain its power-sharing agreement with the Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a.

The growing insecurity in southern Somalia and the merger between Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam are of grave concern. Stabilizing Somalia's security environment is vital to strengthening the Government and to building State capacity and institutions. Consequently, increased support is required if Somali forces are to fight piracy and insurgency and extend the TFG's authority throughout the country.

Nigeria reiterates its firm support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM should be supported to an extent commensurate with its operational mandates. If recent military gains are to be extended, there is a need for greater progress in the deployment of 4,000 troops in accordance with resolution 1964 (2010). We still believe that the Council's endorsement of an increased AMISOM force strength to 20,000 is necessary to strengthen Somalia's security capabilities.

We fully back the commitment of the African Union Peace and Security Council to the rehatting of AMISOM as a United Nations force, in accordance with the Security Council's statement of intent expressed in resolution 1863 (2009), and call for the establishment of a timeline for its deployment. Nigeria reiterates the need for the support package for AMISOM to be identical to that provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Parity between reimbursement rates for AMISOM contingent personnel and United Nations contingent personnel is also essential, and we appeal to donors to emulate the United Kingdom by making uncaveated contributions for the refund of donors' contingent equipment.

The fragile socio-economic environment in Somalia and the absence of effective governance structures are the bases of the piracy problem. We therefore share the sense of urgency expressed by the Special Adviser during his most recent briefing to the Council (see (S/PV.6473) when he called for swift action to address the threat of piracy in Somalia. We also agree with his recommendations concerning the judicial and correctional components of the counter-piracy strategy. In that connection, we call for the swift adoption of anti-piracy legislation in Somalia and throughout the region. Clear standards for the transportation and detention of pirates will aid the transborder prosecution of maritime lawlessness. INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should be included in developing local prosecutorial capacity, a Somali coast guard authority and a UNODC-supported training office for local authorities.

The mounting allegations of illegal fishing and toxic dumping lead us to call for the establishment of an independent international investigation. Many Somalis view such activities as a legitimate justification for piracy. Consequently, we believe that such an investigation would present a major opportunity for international intervention to address the intertwined roots of Somalia's instability — a sentiment expressed in statements issued in 2008.

Notwithstanding the strong partnership between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations in Somalia, the international community still needs to pay more and greater attention to the views of the African Union on Somalia. We therefore reiterate the African Union Peace and Security Council's request for increased funding for AMISOM from United Nations assessed contributions, for the imposition of a naval blockade and a no-flight zone over Somalia and for the effective implementation of sanctions.

In conclusion, we salute the gallant men and women of the military forces of Uganda and Burundi for their efforts and commitment to the cause of peace in Somalia. We also salute the dedication of international aid and humanitarian workers in the country. The work of these important actors can be underpinned by a concerted international effort to bring about sustained peace in a unified Somalia.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): As others have done, let me commend you, Mr. President, for organizing this timely and central debate, a clear indication that the Security Council and the international community cannot, and will not, turn a blind eye to Somalia at this critical juncture. I also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing and for setting the framework for our discussion. Allow me as well to express a word of appreciation to Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed for his encouraging statement and his personal commitment to furthering peace and institution-building in Somalia. I also thank Ambassador Diarra for his very useful comments. And I welcome Ambassador Mahiga in Mogadishu, whom we are very pleased to have with us here today.

In January, when we last discussed the situation in Somalia (see S/PV.6473), the Council reaffirmed its support for the Djibouti Agreement as the basis for the resolution of the conflict in Somalia and reiterated its full support to the Transitional Federal Government. Today, we wish to stress the importance of capitalizing on the progress that has been made. We believe that it is crucial to improve Somali institutional capacity and achieve political stability.

In that regard, it is important for the Transitional Federal Government to undertake further concrete measures towards transition, in particular the timely conclusion of the constitution-making process and the delivery of basic services to the population. As I have said, it is essential that Somali institutions build on the progress achieved so far. In that endeavour, one must comprehensively address all the challenges Somalia faces at the political, security, humanitarian, human rights and socio-economic development levels. Also of paramount importance is to ensure the strengthening of civilian capacity-building and to engage Somalis in the process, as well as in public life in general.

Portugal subscribes to the view expressed in the very useful concept note (S/2011/114, annex) prepared for this debate that an inclusive and strengthened dialogue with all Somalis and key stakeholders will help map the way forward for Somalia. We therefore welcome and encourage the work of Ambassador Mahiga in assisting the Somali people in reaching agreement on post-transitional arrangements, in consultation with the international community.

Portugal also recognizes the progress made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and national security forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu. We encourage the strengthening of the Somali Security Forces, as the Transitional Federal Government bears the primary responsibility for safeguarding peace and security in Somalia. Nevertheless, AMISOM continues to play a vital role in Somalia. We therefore reiterate our support to AMISOM and encourage the full deployment of 4,000 additional troops.

Regrettably, those gains have been overshadowed by the tragic losses of life suffered in recent fighting in Mogadishu. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda, the Transitional Government and the Somali people.

The most serious impact of ongoing violence and insecurity in Somalia is on the Somali people themselves. We condemn in the strongest terms all attacks on the Transitional Government, AMISOM and the civilian population. We are particularly concerned about the situation of women and children, the most vulnerable victims of violence. In that regard, we welcome the commitment by the Transitional Government to halt the recruitment of children, as well as the appointment of a high-level focal point for child protection and human rights, namely, State Minister Zahra Ali Samantar. We wish her every success in her endeavours. We also urge the parties to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure full and unhindered access to all populations in need by humanitarian workers.

Portugal echoes the concerns shared by other members with regard to the threat posed by piracy, including the increasing violence and their increasingly sophisticated methods, which we strongly condemn. We have been engaged with international partners and allies in the fight against piracy. We took part in NATO operations and currently participate in the European Union's Operation Atalanta. Portugal will assume command of that mission beginning in May.

We believe and strongly support a multidimensional response to the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia that includes tackling the root causes of the problem, improving the current responses and embracing new economic, security and jurisdictional/correctional solutions, including an extra-territorial specialized court in the region, as proposed in the recent report (S/2011/30, annex) presented by Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Jack Lang. As I have previously stated in the Council, Portugal strongly supports the proposals contained in that report.

We do not underestimate the difficulties in Somalia. That is why we underline that the continuing commitment, engagement and close cooperation of all parties will be necessary to achieve peace in Somalia, foster national cohesion and open the way for economic and social development. We strongly support the continuous engagement of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other regional organizations. In that context, we of course share the position of the European Union, which will be set out later.

But let me also stress that while the international community must carry on showing its commitment and acting in a concerted way, affording the Somali people the support and encouragement they deserve, concrete steps can only be achieved if there is real commitment from Somali leaders and institutions in laying the foundations for peace and stability in the country. I hope that today's debate will help to achieve that goal.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am grateful for the statements delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia Ambassador Diarra. I also welcome Ambassador Mahiga, who is with us from Mogadishu. My delegation welcomes this timely debate on a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia, especially given the worrying security environment, which is intensifying in several regions of the country. We are grateful for this initiative by the Chinese presidency of the Council.

The recent fighting in Mogadishu has resulted in many dead, wounded and displaced people. The intensification of the conflict has contributed to deepening the alarming humanitarian situation, which has further deteriorated owing to the prevailing drought. Somalia remains one of the most complex environments in which to carry out humanitarian work. It is therefore necessary to ensure that all parties to the conflict respect humanitarian principles and facilitate access to assistance, in particular for the most vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the increase and geographical expansion of pirate attacks and the recently heightened use of violence, including protracted periods of detention and the murdering of hostages, are all highly disturbing. This crime has become one of the most lucrative activities in Somalia, with those responsible in part utilizing ransoms to improve their arsenals and make their operations more efficient and effective. The latest estimates indicate that pirates remain in possession of 819 individuals and 51 boats.

Piracy is one of the disastrous consequences of institutional weakness and poor economic conditions. There are also some reports indicating that armed groups such as Al-Shabaab are increasingly benefiting from the profits of piracy. This criminal activity is penetrating local economies and establishing a progressive dependence on the criminal industry developed around it.

Although international cooperation to provide security for navigation, prevent attacks and arrest pirates has yielded some positive results, the solution to this problem must comprehensively involve both the main source and primary victim of this problem, namely, Somalia.

The seriousness of the situation urgently requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening the rule of law and the creation of institutions to ensure good governance and allow social and economic development in Somalia.

With regard to security as a precondition for strengthening the rule of law, it is essential to provide more resources and to train security forces so as to enable them to patrol and provide security on land as well as the waters off the coast. In that regard, we are concerned that the flow of weapons remains constant, which, according to the Monitoring Group on Somalia, has devastating effects in the context of chronic armed conflict, the absence of effective central authority and a serious humanitarian crisis.

With regard to the justice sector, it is necessary to adopt reforms to facilitate the prosecution and imprisonment of pirates in the context of applicable international law. We agree with what was set out in the report of Special Adviser Jack Lang (see S/2011/30, annex) on the need for Somalia to assume ownership of judicial and imprisonment processes so as to end the impunity that pirates enjoy. The assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Contact Group on Piracy, to reform criminal and procedural legislation and to include provisions for the investigation and prosecution of piracy is of paramount importance.

Community-based investments and the need to create opportunities for young people are vital. In that regard, fishing has been mentioned as an economic option suited to the characteristics of the country. However, Somalia must also resolve a very serious pending issue, namely, the delimitation of its maritime borders with neighbouring States.

Adopting a sustainable and comprehensive strategy aimed at the capacity-building of national institutions and the provision of basic services requires consistency in the efforts of the various United Nations entities and the effective use of existing mechanisms, including the regime envisaged in resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) to impose sanctions on individuals who threaten the reconciliation process.

In recent months, the Council has had the opportunity to consider various proposals that offer options for viable and comprehensive actions with regard to the general crisis faced by Somalia. In view of the end of the transition period and given the gravity of the situation, the United Nations must lead an early and decisive international response that has stabilization and strengthening of the Somali State as the primary goal.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

The transitional period in Somalia will come to an end in August, which will usher in a new stage in the settlement of the question of Somalia. It will present daunting challenges while also providing significant opportunities. The many problems facing Somalia are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and therefore require an integrated response.

China believes it is necessary to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy for the early realization of peace, security and development in Somalia. That comprehensive strategy should reflect Somalia's ownership and give full play to the important role of the United Nations. In our view, that important strategy should comprise five pillars.

First is the effective promotion of political reconciliation in Somalia. We hope that the Transitional Federal Government will work within the framework of the Djibouti Agreement, complete its constitutional process and other transitional tasks as planned and enter into dialogue as soon as possible with the relevant national parties and international cooperation partners on post-transitional arrangements, with a view to reaching consensus at an early date. We hope that the various Somali parties will seize this opportunity to effectively promote national political reconciliation.

Second is strengthening capacity-building in the security sector. We call on the Transitional Federal Government, with the assistance of international partners, to step up efforts to strengthen the security sector so as to establish at an early date a professional army, capable of maintaining national peace and stability and of protecting the security of the Somali people. We urge the parties concerned to continue to provide donations to the Somali Security Sector Institutions Trust Fund.

Third is the promotion of economic and social development. Supporting the people is a decisive factor in the future of Somalia, and the key to winning the people's support is to show the Somali people the prospect of a good life so that they can have confidence in their country's future. China calls on the United Nations and donors to mobilize more financial and material resources to help Somalia to bring about development. Somalia should have a greater say on questions such as the distribution and implementation of financial assistance.

Fourth is fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia. China calls for deep reflection by the international community on its strategy to combat piracy. Greater attention should be paid to effectively addressing the land-based origins of piracy through political, economic and judicial means.

Fifth is support for the leading role of the African Union. China highly values the important role of regional organizations, such as the African Union, and of the African Union Mission to Somalia, and calls on the international community to provide more support to the African Union. We support the Security Council in responding positively to the relevant requests of the African Union and in giving favourable consideration to the deployment of a peacekeeping operation in Somalia at an appropriate time.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council stresses the need for a comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in the fields of the political process, security sector building, humanitarian relief, protection of civilians, human rights, socio-economic development, counter-terrorism and combating piracy. The Council reiterates its grave concern at the continued instability in Somalia, which has led to a multitude of problems, including terrorism, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and a dire humanitarian situation.
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> "The Security Council reaffirms its support for the Djibouti Agreement as the basis for the resolution of the conflict in Somalia. It urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to broaden and consolidate the reconciliation process, intensify efforts to complete the outstanding transitional tasks, and prioritize the timely completion of the constitution and the delivery of basic services to the population, paving the way for a better future for Somalis, including their economic and social development and the realization of their human rights.
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> "The Security Council welcomes the work of Mr. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to support the Somali people in reaching agreement on post-transitional arrangements in consultation with the international community. It strongly urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to engage in this process in a more constructive, open and transparent manner that promotes broader political dialogue and participation in line with the spirit of the Djibouti Agreement. The Council requests the Secretary-General to assess, in his regular reports delivered to the Council before the end of the transitional period, the respect for these principles. These principles are essential for future cooperation between the international community and the Transitional Federal Institutions. The Security Council notes that the transitional period will end in August 2011. The Council regrets the decision by the Transitional Federal Parliament to extend its mandate unilaterally, without carrying out necessary reforms, and urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to refrain from any further unilateral action.
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> "The Security Council expresses its strong support for the work of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mahiga, welcomes his efforts and those of the United Nations, and calls for an increased United Nations presence and increased coherence of United Nations activities in Somalia.
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> "The Security Council affirms the importance of the development of Government institutions and the strengthening of civilian capacity-building across Somalia, including ensuring the participation of women in public life, the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding and socio-economic reconstruction. The Council urges the international community to mobilize additional support to the Transitional Federal Government and local and regional administrations in that regard.
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> "The Security Council expresses its serious concern about the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, and the impact of the current drought, which have left over 2 million Somalis in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and have resulted in significantly higher flows of refugees to neighbouring countries.
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> "The Security Council also expresses concern at the continuing decline in humanitarian funding for Somalia. The Security Council commends the work of humanitarian aid workers and urges all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the targeting and obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid by Al-Shabaab and other armed groups in Somalia and demands that all parties ensure full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of strengthening the Somali security forces, including the development of effective command and control. While emphasizing that the Somalis hold the primary responsibility for achieving political stability, security and the rule of law, the Council urges Member States and regional and international organizations to contribute generously and promptly to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali security institutions, and to provide assistance to the Somali security forces.

"The Security Council recognizes the progress made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu. The Council deeply regrets the loss of life in the recent fighting and recognizes the significant sacrifices made by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces. The Council expresses its sincere gratitude to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their commitment to AMISOM, and expresses its condolences to them and to the Transitional Federal Government and the Somali people.

"The Security Council condemns all attacks, including terrorist attacks on the Transitional Federal Government, AMISOM and the civilian population by armed opposition groups and foreign fighters, particularly Al-Shabaab.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM in order for it to better fulfil its mandate. The Security Council calls on the international community to make contributions urgently and without caveats to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM or directly in support of AMISOM. It notes the recommendations on Somalia of the Africa Union Peace and Security Council of 15 October 2010 and underlines its intention to keep the situation under review. It encourages the full deployment of 4,000 additional AMISOM troops as authorized by Security Council resolution 1964 (2010) as soon as possible.

"The Security Council stresses the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in Somalia to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate or excessive use of force. The Security Council expresses deep concern about the continuing violations and abuses committed against children in Somalia by parties to the conflict and urges the immediate implementation of all conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia.

"The Security Council remains gravely concerned about the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, especially by the extended range of the piracy threat into the western Indian Ocean, the increase in pirate capacities and the increasing violence by the pirates. The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms such violence, including hostage-taking, murder and other acts of violence against individuals. The Security Council recognizes that the ongoing instability in Somalia contributes to the problem of piracy and armed robbery, and stresses the need for a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes.

"The Security Council calls upon all Member States, in particular those in the region, to refrain from any action in contravention of the Somalia and Eritrea arms embargo and to take all necessary steps to hold violators accountable, and affirms the importance of enhancing the monitoring of the Somalia and Eritrea arms embargoes through persistent and vigilant investigation into the violations, bearing in mind that strict enforcement of the arms embargoes will improve the overall security situation in the region.

"The Security Council welcomes the endeavours of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other regional organizations to promote peace and stability in Somalia and reiterates its full support to AMISOM and its troop- and police-contributing countries, especially Burundi and Uganda."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/6.

I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I wish to congratulate the Chinese presidency for organizing this open debate. I also want to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Somalia, and the Special Representative for Somalia of the African Union Commission, Mr. Diarra, for their statements. We welcome and strongly support the elements contained in the presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/6). I shall highlight a few important points. The longer version of my statement will be circulated.

Turkey is very concerned about the continuation of the cycle of violence in Somalia. Likewise, we are alarmed by the humanitarian crisis.

We commend the crucial role played by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We thank all troop-contributing countries, especially Uganda and Burundi, and convey our condolences for their loss. We believe that AMISOM should be provided with adequate, predictable and sustainable funding so that it can effectively implement its mandate. To that end, we think that the Security Council should consider authorizing an enhanced support package, which would be drawn from United Nations assessed contributions.

Turkey believes that military means should be coupled with steps to be taken on the political front. First and foremost, the Transitional Federal Institutions should redouble their efforts to reach out to other groups and try to engage them in the Djibouti political process and strengthen their relations with local authorities in the country. The pending tasks, especially the drafting of the new constitution, should be completed after August, when the transitional period ends.

Turkey, in principle, supports the idea of the extension of the transitional period as long as decisions to that effect are taken in a coordinated and consensual fashion. We welcome the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to reach compromise solutions on the matter.

We appreciate that Prime Minister Mohamed and his Government are truly committed to achieving the targets for a functional State with all of its structures in place. We believe that it is incumbent upon the international partners of Somalia to empower the TFG, especially by providing the necessary financial resources and refraining from taking steps that could undermine the authority of the central Government.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, Ambassador Mahiga, has the full support of Turkey. We praise the constructive efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development towards finding a durable solution to the problem in Somalia.

On 21 March, Turkey will chair the eighth plenary meeting of the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. With the recent increase in hijackings and the escalation of violence by pirates, there is an urgent need for a strategic plan to tackle and systematically combat piracy.

We believe that the upcoming plenary will provide a good opportunity to discuss this issue in a holistic manner. We also believe that today's meeting will provide valuable inputs for our discussions within the Contact Group. In that sense, we believe that the two meetings are mutually reinforcing.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I wish to thank you, Sir, on behalf of the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the initiative to hold this debate. We are pleased to see the presence at this meeting of His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. We fully subscribe to the statement delivered by Ambassador Diarra, for which I thank him heartily.

The situation in Somalia continues to be critical. The reasons are obvious. First, the end of the transition period is fast approaching. We realize that those tasks that the TFG needed to carry out during the transition period have not been completed. For this and other reasons, it is impossible to say that the TFG has discharged all of its responsibilities. However, allowing the transition period to lapse and thereby allowing the collapse of the Djibouti peace process cannot be an option. That explains why IGAD and the African Union (AU) have taken the steps they have. It is now a matter of greatest urgency that the TFG carry out those tasks as speedily as possible.

Secondly, we have seen over the past few days that it is entirely possible for the TFG to enhance its viability and to make progress in the security area, which is absolutely critical as the minimum requirement for everything that the TFG has to do in other sectors. The momentum generated recently needs to be maintained and expanded. This is very critical, both for raising the credibility of the TFG and for conveying the message that extremism is far from being the wave of the future. The more the momentum is sustained and additional gains are made, the fewer the chances the enemies of peace will have to benefit from the fear they have instilled in the minds of citizens.

From this perspective as well, the current situation in Somalia is indeed very critical. There are opportunities that should be seized. The question is: Are all stakeholders ready? It does not help much to harp on the weaknesses of the TFG. But, still, it is important for the TFG to ensure the full implementation of the 15 March 2010 agreement with Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, particularly in the security area, as well as to strengthen its cooperation with all those committed to peace and the Djibouti peace process. We want to underline how critical it is to adhere to the principle that the Djibouti Agreement remains the basis for consolidating the process of national reconciliation in Somalia.

However, a great deal more is expected from others, including from the Council. Resolution 1964 (2010) only partially addressed the request submitted to the Council by the African Union regarding the authorized strength of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on an enhanced support package for the Mission from United Nations assessed contribution, and on the imposition of a naval blockade of and no-fly zone over Somalia, as well as effective implementation of sanctions on spoilers. This is becoming ever more urgent, including as a result of the worsening humanitarian situation in the country. The needy should not remain hostage to those who brutalize them.

I am pleased to note that the IGAD countries continue to do their share. In this regard, we are deeply grateful to Uganda and Burundi for the sacrifices they have been making. We are encouraged by the enhanced cooperation that we have managed to create between AMISOM, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and IGAD, as exemplified by the memorandum of understanding signed between them in April last year, providing for enhanced consultation and coordination, which became the basis for a joint regional strategy agreed in February of this year. Perhaps, this might serve as a template for other regions.

I wish to conclude by thanking you personally, Sir, for this very welcome initiative, by appealing to the Council to give the Somalia situation far greater attention than it has received to date, and by extending our gratitude to all States that have rendered assistance to the TFG, AMISOM, IGAD and the AU.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Ragaglini (Italy): I wish to thank you for convening this timely open debate on the situation in Somalia. I thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Somalia and the Special Representative of the African Union for Somalia for their statements, to which I listened attentively.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the head of the delegation of the European Union, and I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Italy continues to support the invaluable endeavours of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ambassador Mahiga, and remains fully engaged in all the relevant multilateral forums, as well as bilaterally, in promoting the Somali peace process. Indeed, Somalia continues to represent a risk in terms of worldwide terrorism, international organized crime and humanitarian crises.

The Islamic extremist group Al-Shabaab is still a serious threat to the Transitional Federal Institutions in Mogadishu, to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and, above all, to all Somalis, who have been suffering now for some 20 years. The ongoing drought could easily turn into a humanitarian catastrophe. In all regions controlled by Al-Shabaab, international aid is barred, while food and water provided by United Nations agencies in the territories beyond their reach are at risk of running short. Piracy remains a clear and present danger to a widening area of the Indian Ocean.

Somalia needs stronger international efforts for stabilization and security and to prevent the risk of terrorism spilling over. Like other countries, Italy strongly supports AMISOM and the Somali security forces and Police in their strategy to establish effective control of the territory. We are also engaged in sustaining the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in its reconstruction, and thus in implementing a civilian strategy of economic and social recovery.

The European Union Training Mission, in which Italy has been taking part since its inception, is working well. The United States and Italy have renewed their financial support for 8,000 additional soldiers. This, however, is not enough. The TFG's security forces remain in dire need of a serious overhaul of their organization, command and control.

The Somali Prime Minister has today renewed his appeals for stronger political and financial assistance to the TFG from the international community. The short time left until the natural end of the transitional mandate, despite the ongoing discussions on its extension, calls for immediate action. Addressing the need for a new institutional set-up following August, through concrete actions and a coordinated approach by the international community, remains crucial.

Key international actors seem to share the notion that the open-ended political outreach efforts set by the Djibouti peace process need to be intensified. Thus, the role of local entities must also be increased if the legitimacy and representation of any institutional architecture is to be secured. To this end, we advocate increased cooperation between the TFG and the local administrations.

To encourage this enhanced cooperation and better coordination between the central institutions and local Powers, the international community, while remaining steadfast in its support for the TFG, should guarantee greater assistance to the stable regions that have not fallen under the control of Al-Shabaab, such as Puntland, Galguduud and Somaliland.

Italy deems it necessary to have stronger and urgent international efforts to help the TFG tackle the serious problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which has grown in scope and intensity. Despite the ongoing efforts of various navies in the area, piracy remains a major threat, and the situation has deteriorated. We have been actively participating in the European Union Atalanta and the NATO Ocean Shield naval operations, and Italy is keen to hold the command of the NATO fleet in the second half of 2011.

Italy continues to prioritize the prosecution and detention of captured pirates, which represent the most logical consequence of the huge patrolling effort and a necessary requirement for an effective fight against piracy. We therefore support the recommendation put forward in the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (S/2011/30, annex) to create an extraterritorial Somali court with an international component, and would welcome the adoption of Security Council measures to that effect.

Furthermore, Italy supports the call for increased efforts to control illicit financial flows linked to piracy off the coast of Somalia, and is willing to facilitate discussion among interested members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia on the appropriate way forward. We are also ready to lead an international effort to develop actionable proposals for disrupting piracy-related financial networks and to report our findings to the plenary meeting of the Contact Group.

Somalian instability represents a threat for the region and fosters a multitude of problems, including terrorism. As a matter of urgency, the international community must come together on a comprehensive strategy to encourage development, peace and security in Somalia.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I therefore intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m.